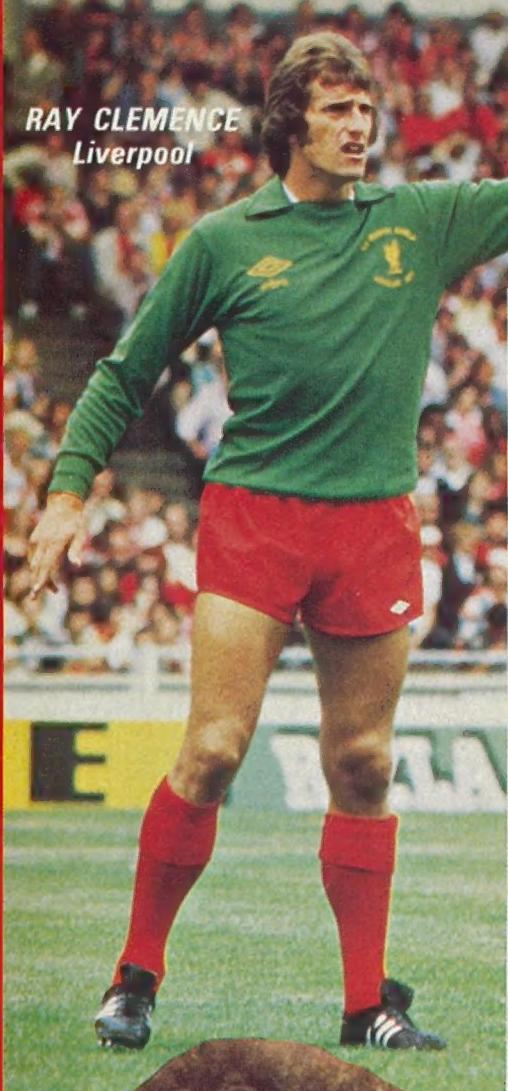


SHOOT!

27th JANUARY, 1979

18p

RAY CLEMENCE
Liverpool



Four of our
popular star
writers featured
inside this
issue.



PART THREE OF
OUR F.A. CUP
WALLCHART

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NEWS

Compiled by
Peter Stewart

DESK

TOUGHER AT THE BOTTOM

STAN ANDERSON, settling into his new appointment as coach at Bolton Wanderers in succession to George Mulhall, is finding life a great deal different.

Amiable Stan, who produced the Middlesbrough team that Jack Charlton took into the First Division, says: "People talk about the problems at the top, but it's nothing like as intensive as the problems at the bottom."

"If you want to know about pressure talk to a Fourth Division manager. They've got a variety of jobs, they practically live in their car, coming home tired out from chasing around the country watching matches and scouting, and then having to work with the team, build them up, and then carry on to do the office work that management involves."

Adds Stan: "In the First Division there are more people to help you. But there is no better place to learn the game than in the tough atmosphere of the Fourth Division."

DANNY BLANCHFLOWER'S recent appointment as Chelsea boss made him the fifth Northern Ireland supremo to hold down a club post in addition to his international commitments.

The others were Peter Doherty (ex-Doncaster Rovers and Bristol City), Bertie Peacock (ex-Coleraine), Billy Bingham (ex-Linfield, now Mansfield Town) and Terry Neill (Spurs, now Arsenal), with former Coventry and Everton star Dave Clements, Irish boss for a spell in the early '70s, the sole exception in this respect.

ONLY THREE "GREATS"

BOBBY MOORE, Bobby Charlton and Billy Wright. These are the three men that manager in the spotlight Alan Durban feels really deserve the label "great."

Claims Durban, who himself is getting plenty of praise as he re-fashions Stoke City as a potential First Division side: "Too many superlatives are thrown about these days, and it annoys me. You get moderate players who haven't really served their dues in the game, being called great players. I think in the last 25 years only those three — Charlton, Moore and Wright — really deserve such praise."

Says Durban: "Both Wright and Moore were men who could run the game on the field. They were the type England need now. Somebody to take charge when they cross the touchline. They always seemed to have control of every situation. Charlton was a man with supreme ability, whose sportsmanship outshone even his obvious skills."

MALCOLM MACDONALD to leave Arsenal?

WHEN Malcolm Macdonald regains full fitness he'll almost certainly be on the move from Arsenal ... and expect Champions Nottingham Forest to lead the chase for the former England striker.

Forest boss Brian Clough has always been an admirer of Malcolm and last season had a big offer rejected by Arsenal.

"Macdonald can be guaranteed for around 30 goals a season and is a real crowd-puller," Cloughie has said.

Arsenal have made inquiries for two goalscorers recently. Charlton's Mike Flanagan is one, and if they get their man will probably be willing to release Macdonald for around £250,000.

Apart from Forest, Manchester City, Coventry and Q.P.R. will also be in the hunt if Macdonald is made available by Gunners' boss Terry Neill.

But discount City because Malcolm won't be too keen on a move back North.



YORK City's scoring list in the first half of the season had a pretty bare look about it.

After 17 matches just 15 goals had been scored, though the club was in a reasonable mid-table position nevertheless, and the goals had been shared between only three players.

Kevin Randall had scored seven, Gordon Staniforth five and David Loggie three.

I should imagine manager Charlie Wright is hoping for help to come from elsewhere in the team.



TAYLOR'S TEN

WATFORD manager Graham Taylor (left) unwittingly set a new record when he was named Bell's Manager of The Month for November. It was the tenth time Taylor had been presented with a gallon of whisky — an individual record. However, there's no truth in the rumour the film "Whisky Galore" is to be re-made in Watford shortly!

Why Derby's bid for World Cup star failed

TOMMY DOCHERTY seems to buy or sell a player every week — or at least he tries to! And among his deals, near-deals and no-deals it seems he recently tried to acquire the services of Argentinian superstar Norberto "Beto" Alonso (right) who wears the number 10 shirt for River Plate and is rated the undisputed Number One in Buenos Aires.

Alonso would surely have starred in the World Cup if an injury hadn't kept him on the sidelines, and he certainly

DONCASTER Rovers' manager Billy Bremner returned to action as a player for a day as guest in a Guisborough-Scarborough friendly. The match raised £1,000 towards the testimonial fund for former Middlesbrough and England stars Wilf Mannion and George Hardwick.

BRENTFORD made a record profit of £75,521 last season when they won promotion from the Fourth Division.

Now they have announced extensive plans to rebuild Griffin Park as a sports complex to serve the community.

IN the same week that West Bromwich Albion were capturing newspaper headlines through their failure to sign Charlie George, the Midlanders were quietly capturing two signatures that could have a profound effect on the club's future.

Manager Ron Atkinson and his number two Colin Addison took time off from transfer pursuits to sign lucrative three year contracts that will keep the talented young duo at The Hawthorns until at least the early 1980's.

Atkinson and Addison have clearly served notice on the First Division. They mean to complete the job they have started so impressively — with or without Charlie George, now at Southampton, of course.

Sibley aiming for stability

FRANK SIBLEY has become Walsall's 17th post-War manager upon his appointment at Fellows Park. He replaced Alan Ashman, who was only in charge for two months.

The former Queens Park Rangers boss admits he was offered the appointment last close season but declined to move to the Midlands.

Sibley spent all his soccer career with Rangers as a player, coach and manager.

Still only 31-years-old, Sibley faces a difficult task of rebuilding Walsall following the comings and goings at Fellows Park over the past few months.

He is their third manager since last July, hardly a proud record for the club, and one of his first tasks will be to bring about more stability at Fellows Park.

HERE'S a testing quiz question for you? Which current Football League player has already returned to two of his former clubs since the start of the season?

The answer is Bobby Campbell, one-time Aston Villa and Sheffield United striker.

Campbell was with Vancouver Whitecaps when the season started, then signed for Huddersfield Town,

ALLEN HOME

RONNIE ALLEN has resigned from his job as manager of the Saudi Arabian national team.

The former West Bromwich Albion boss was granted freedom to return to Britain on compassionate grounds. His wife suffers from a deteriorating heart condition.

"The Saudi's could not have been more amicable about the whole thing," he explained. "The only reason I have returned home is because my wife requires specialist attention and I need to be with her every day."

"My wife's health must come first and foremost."

FOURTH Division Hartlepool remained loyal to their hard core of fans over the glamour F.A. Cup-tie with Leeds United. The Pool refused to raise their prices when it would have been easy to cash in. The gesture lost them money, but earned a lot in goodwill.

the club he left for Sheffield two years ago.

However, after only half-a-dozen appearances and three goals, two in his last match, Campbell had a row with Huddersfield manager Mick Buxton and was sold to Halifax Town.

As he was with Halifax a few years back before going to Huddersfield for the first time, he's on a circular tour by the look of it.

made a good impression in the Sheffield United-River Plate friendly at Bramall Lane.

Argentinian Press reports state Derby approached River with an offer of £350,000 for the skilful and free-scoring midfield player.

The River directors agreed to the deal, but negotiations surprisingly broke down when Alonso demanded an additional £250,000 in cash for himself!

Meanwhile, the Argentinians are also commenting that Ted Buckley, the "commercial manager" of Ardiles, Villa and Sabella, is keen to get more Argentinians on his books, and he's reported to have approached River on behalf of an un-named English club with an offer of £250,000 for Daniel Passarella.

But River are adamant they won't part with the Argentinian World Cup captain, for less than half a million pounds.

MARK GREW, who was disappointed when West Bromwich Albion signed goalkeeper Dale Stewart from Leeds United, has now been loaned out to Football League newcomers, Wigan.

Albion boss, Ron Atkinson, said: "It will be good experience for the lad."

Ironically, Grew's only first team experience with Albion was on their summer tour to China.



The former Northern Ireland international centre-half Hugh Dowd, who is recovering after an operation on ligaments in his right leg. Hugh hopes to be back in first team action soon.

Men like Bill Shankly, Stan Cullis and Alec Stock have little active contact with football, he says.

"I feel it should be harnessed to everyone's benefit. There should be regular meetings of managers up and down the country with these fellows invited to come along and talk."



HEARTS long-awaited testimonial game for former player and trainer John Cumming, who left Tynecastle two years ago, is on the cards for the end of this season. Plans are going ahead for a Sunday game between an Edinburgh Select XI and a Glasgow Select team.

• Brian Slane has quit as manager of Blyth Spartans. Slane found life with the Cup-conquering Northern League side too time-consuming.

BRIAN PARRY, Kidderminster Harriers' goalkeeper, has attracted an offer — from his father-in-law Jack Smith.

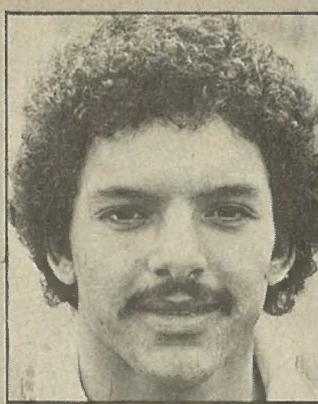
Smith, manager of Southern League club Margate, is hoping to persuade his son-in-law to move to the South-East. But Parry is taking time to make up his mind after buying a house recently in the Telford area.

WASTED TALENT

LAWRIE MC MENEMY, Southampton's manager, believes a lot of experienced managerial talent is going to waste.

Men like Bill Shankly, Stan Cullis and Alec Stock have little active contact with football, he says.

"I feel it should be harnessed to everyone's benefit. There should be regular meetings of managers up and down the country with these fellows invited to come along and talk."



Young Filberts to watch

WATCH out for the name of Mick Duffy. He is one of several youngsters whom Leicester City manager Jock Wallace hopes will make the grade at Filbert Street.

He makes no secret of his determination to blood young players.

"I am pinning my faith on the likes of Larry May (above) and Tommy Williams — and other youngsters are showing tremendous potential."

Duffy is one of them.

FORMER Derby County footballer Bob Stephenson has been appointed captain of Hampshire County Cricket Club for the 1979 season.

CARRICK Rangers' goalkeeper Geoffrey Cowan, the East Antrim outfit's net-minding hero in their 1976 Irish Cup Final defeat of Linfield, could soon be on the move to a senior club.

The tall, commanding 'keeper has been attracting top grade managers for some time, and it would surprise no one in Ulster soccer if the brilliant Carrick custodian, who appeared in European Cup-Winners' Cup-ties against Southampton two seasons ago, switched to an Irish League side.

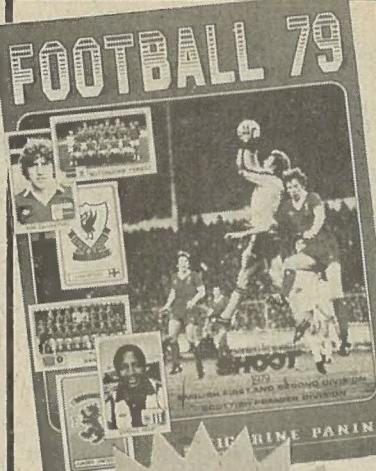
GERRY O'HARA has failed in his comeback to play Football League soccer. The former Wolves forward was released by the Molineux club at the end of last season after being on the side-lines with a joint condition.

Mike Bailey, his old Wolves skipper, who is now Hereford United's manager, gave him a trial period at Edgar Street but it did not work out and now he is back in the West Midlands.

CRYSTAL PALACE star Vince Hilaire invests some of his money in jewellery.

"I like to buy gold things for investment purposes," he says. "One day I might go into the jewellery business."

Not too soon, Vince, for Palace's sake.



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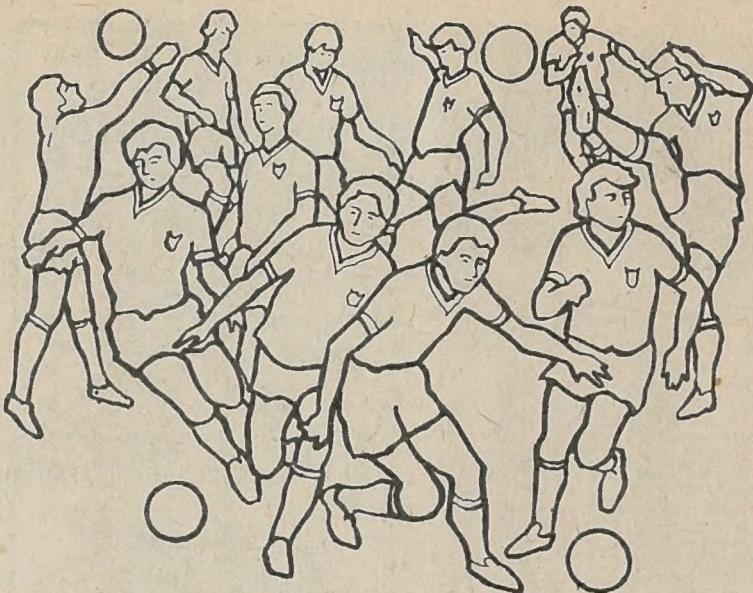
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not in accordance with the Rules of Entry will be disqualified. 5. All entries will automatically become the property of Topps Chewing Gum and will not be returned. 6. The Judges' decision in respect of the completion of the unfinished slogan shall be final and binding. The Panel of Competition Judges will include at least one member independent of the promoters and their agents. Names of those comprising the Panel will be available on request after 28th February 1979 by sending a S.A.E. to the address in the coupon. 7. The competition solution and the slogan that wins the top prize will be published in 'Competitors Journal' in April 1979. The competition solution and winning slogan will also be made available on request by enclosing a S.A.E. and applying after 1st April 1979 to the competition address in coupon. A list of the major prizewinners' names and entries will likewise be available for those applying after 1st April 1979.

'The importance of a

THESESEMS incredible now, but when Brian Clough paid just over £300,000 for Peter Shilton last season, some people wondered whether he was worth that amount.

Peter is the perfect example of how goalkeepers have become more important in recent years, so important I'd say they are probably the most vital members of the team.

The Forest star must be worth over half a million pounds now, not that Clough would even dream of parting with him.

I believe Clough has said Peter saves Forest around 15 points a season and few would disagree with this estimate.

Peter was always a good keeper, but since moving to Forest he has

grown in stature, being given extra responsibility for organising his defence. The confidence he has gained from Forest's incredible run has also enhanced his game.

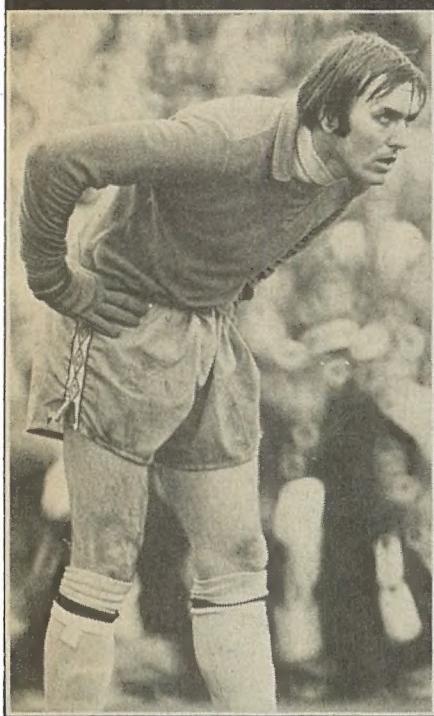
I remember I said in a previous column that Peter probably has the edge on his England friend and rival Ray Clemence. A Liverpool fan subsequently sent me an abusive letter slating me for "slagging off Clem."

I certainly didn't criticise Ray, but I stand by my original remark, and I'm sure just about every other keeper in the League would agree. There isn't a better goalie around right now than Peter.

He seems to be doing his job just that little bit better than the rest, and at 29 has reached the peak of



TOP-CLASS GOALIE'



ANDY GRAY
Writes for you

his career.

Ray has been unfortunate to have had his mistakes highlighted by television: the price you pay for being a Liverpool player!

Scotland fans won't forget the goal he conceded when Kenny Dalglish's shot squeezed between his legs at Hampden in 1976. I'm sure Ray will never forget it, either!

It hasn't been easy for him to play behind the Liverpool defence. On many occasions, he's had to do so little he must have felt he was short of match practice!

It's possible Ray would be a better goalkeeper had he NOT been with Liverpool. A goalie thrives on being involved, but behind Liver-

pool's superbly organised defence Ray has rarely had to be the saviour of The Reds.

It'll be very hard for Ron Greenwood to drop Shilton after his first-

class display against Czechoslovakia. I'm sure every other international manager is envious of Ron, having two such great 'keepers in his squad, but soccer at that level is a *squad* game and both Peter and Ray have played their part.

Scotland haven't been so fortunate with goalkeepers, despite producing so many world-class outfield stars. I have the impression Scottish kids prefer not to play in goal, hence a dearth of Number Ones.

Alan Rough would have been a much better 'keeper had he signed for an English club. Being part-time with Partick Thistle must have held him back, and because of all the criticism he's had, it's unlikely he'll come South now.

George Wood, of Everton, seems to be the next in line, and perhaps Jock Stein would have given him a cap had there been a friendly game, but the Scotland boss didn't want to give George his debut in the vital European Championship tie in Portugal.

I've been impressed by George, whom I remember having a good game at Villa Park last season and has continued his progress.

The best goalkeeper I've ever seen is Gordon Banks. His strength was he didn't have a weakness! Saves like the one from Pelé in Mexico will never be forgotten... Banksie was simply brilliant at everything he did.

One of the best goalkeeping performances I can recall was Jim Montgomery's for Sunderland against Leeds in the F.A. Cup Final. Monty was expected to take a hammering, but turned the game with two reflex saves.

Jimmy's done a good job at Birmingham, although he's been unlucky with injuries this season.

One goalkeeper people take for granted is Pat Jennings, because everyone expects Pat to play well in every game. Arsenal are lucky to have Pat in their side and he's worked hard to stay at the top.

Les Sealey of Coventry is one of the best young goalies around. He's kept Jim Blyth out of the team — and Jim was rated at £440,000 by Manchester United before his transfer fell through.

I must mention our own Jimmy Rimmer who, over the past 18 months, has been Villa's most consistent player.

Jimmy spent a lot of time as reserve to Alex Stepney at Manchester United, but the experience of being involved with European soccer has benefited him. Then, he moved on to Arsenal, so Jimmy is privileged to have played for three of Europe's best clubs.

I study opposing 'keepers closely, remembering their strengths and weaknesses — mind you, they're doing the same about me!

I'm not giving away any secrets, but some don't like near-post crosses, some aren't happy with high balls, so we adapt accordingly.

A striker doesn't get many "gifts" and the only two 'keepers I can remember offhand who have presented me with open goals by dropping the ball are Mervyn Day (West Ham) and John Osborne (ex-West Brom).

Zoff Fan

I think we are unfair on Continental goalkeepers. British goalies may be better with technique, yet to say our 'keepers are BETTER than foreign ones is not necessarily true.

Continents are now very good on crosses and our sides play high balls into the area only to see them safely picked out of the air. Foreign clubs like us to think their goalies are weak!

Argentina's Fillol showed in the World Cup how important a goalkeeper is, saving his country four or five times.

I am also a fan of Italy's Dino Zoff and Sepp Maier of West Germany. Maier has his critics, but if I win half of the honours he has I'll be happy.

In fact, I may have the chance to go in goal one day. Should Jimmy Rimmer be injured during a game, either Frank Carrodus or myself would take over.

I'd dearly love to have a go between the sticks... preferably in a friendly or a testimonial. And preferably in the mud! I love diving around in it!

"Peter Shilton (left) is worth 15 points a season to Forest. Jimmy Rimmer (top left) has the experience of playing with three top clubs. I managed to score against former team-mate John Burridge of Crystal Palace (top right)."

KEVIN KEEGAN EUROPEAN FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

THIS IS YOUR LIFE



A young Keegan (above) pictured during his early days at Scunthorpe United. A proud moment (right) for the likeable striker... SHOOT's most exciting Player of the Year award in 1972.



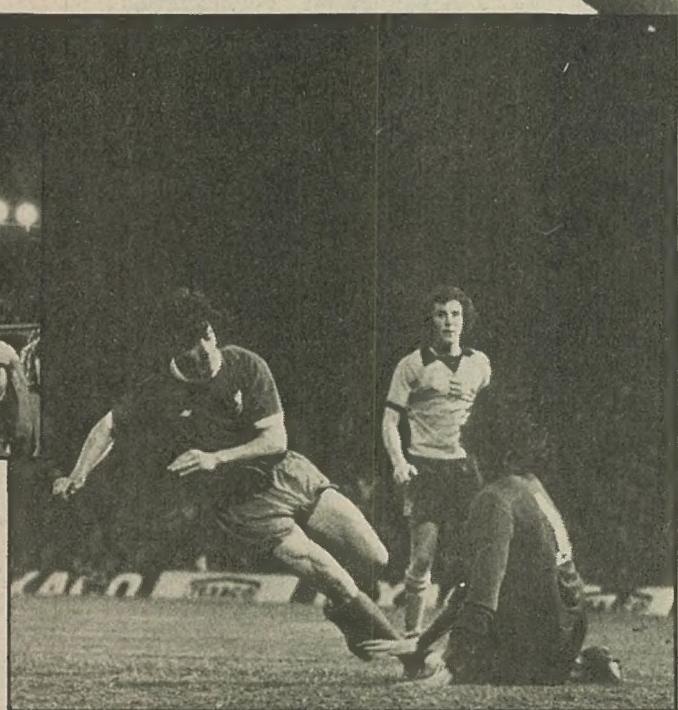
Keegan tries a spectacular over-head kick during Liverpool's 3-0 F.A. Cup win in 1974 at Wembley.



The 1974 Charity Shield game was a disaster for Keegan. He was sent-off, with Leeds' Billy Bremner, for fighting. Liverpool won on penalties.



ABOVE... John Toshack and Keegan celebrate in style after Liverpool's 1976 U.E.F.A. Cup triumph v. Bruges. RIGHT... Kevin is on hand to score the all important first goal v. Wolves that helped the Anfield club to clinch the League Championship in 1975-76.





LEFT . . . The same year, saw Keegan voted Footballer of the Year by the Football Writers Association.

Keegan, always willing to try anything, comes off his bike during a Superstars competition.

Liverpool realised a dream when they beat Borussia Monchengladbach to win the 1977 European Cup. Keegan was outstanding as he helped 'Pool to an historic 3-1 victory.



Keegan has always regarded skippering England as one of the highlights of his career.

Liverpool chairman John Smith (left) and Dr. Peter Krohn shake hands after completing the £500,000 transfer that took Kevin to Hamburger SV in 1977.

Kevin and his wife Jean clearly enjoy their new life in West Germany.



Keegan and England manager Ron Greenwood discuss tactics before a recent international.



The former Liverpool superstar was definitely the star on ITV's World Cup panel for 1978. Here he lines-up with Pat Crerand (left), Brian Clough and Johan Cruyff.



LEFT . . . Keegan scores for England v. Denmark. ABOVE . . . The European Footballer of the Year in action for Hamburger SV.

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1977 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Villa's Hat-trick.

1976 UEFA CUP Liverpool v. Bruges

1976 FA CUP FINAL Super Saints!

1976 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Man. City v. Newcastle

1976 KINGS OF SCOTLAND Rangers v. Hearts

1975 F.A. CUP FINAL Hail To The Hammers!

1975 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Viva! The Villa!

1974 F.A. CUP FINAL Liverpool's Cup

1974 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Wonderful Wolves!

1973 F.A. CUP FINAL Sunderland's Cup

1973 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Spurs v. Norwich

1972 F.A. CUP FINAL

Leeds v. Arsenal

1972 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Salute to Stoke!

1971 F.A. CUP FINAL Arsenal v. Liverpool

1971 EURO CUP WINNERS Chelsea v. R. Madrid

1971 LEAGUE CUP FINAL Spurs v. Aston Villa

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| 1973 Semi: Leeds 1, Wolves 0 | 100ft |
| *1972 Leeds 1, Arsenal 0 | 100ft |
| *1971 Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1 | 200ft |
| 1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 2 | 100ft |
| 1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 1 | 100ft |
| 1969 Man City 1, Leicester 0 | 100ft |
| 1968 WBA 1, Everton 0 | 200ft |
| 1967 Spurs 2, Chelsea 1 | 200ft |
| 1966 Everton 3, Sheff. Wed. 2 | 300ft |
| 1965 Liverpool 2, Leeds 1 | 200ft |
| 1964 West Ham 3, Preston 2 | 200ft |
| 1963 Man. Utd 3, Leicester 1 | 200ft |
| 1962 Spurs 3, Burnley 1 | 100ft |
| 1960 Wolves 3, Blackburn 0 | 100ft |
| 1959 Nott'ham F. 2, Luton 1 | 100ft |
| 1958 Bolton 2, Man. Utd. 0 | 100ft |
| 1957 Aston Villa 2, Man. Utd. 1 | 100ft |
| 1953 Blackpool 4, Bolton 3 | 100ft |
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| *1978 Scotland v Wales/Czecho | 400ft |
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| *1978 Liverpool 1, Bruges 0 | 200ft/400ft |
| Also 400ft Col SOUND £33 | |
| *1977 L'pool 3, Borussia MGB 1 | 200ft/300ft |
| Also 200ft col SOUND £17.20 | |
| Also 300ft col SOUND £26.25 | |
| *1976 B. Munich 1, St. Etienne 0 | 200ft/400ft |
| also 400ft b/w and colour sound | |
| *1975 B. Munich 2, Leeds 0 | 150ft |
| 1972 Ajax 2, Inter Milan 0 | 200ft |
| 1971 Ajax 2, Panathinaikos 0 | 100ft |
| 1969 Milan 4, Ajax 1 | 200ft |
| 1968 Man. Utd. 4, Benfica 1 | 200ft/400ft |
| Also b/w SOUND £10.00 | |
| 1968 Man. Utd. 3, Madrid 3 (semi-final) | 200ft |
| 1967 Celtic 2, Inter Milan 1 | 200ft/400ft |
| 1966 Man. Utd. 5, Benfica 1 | 200ft |
| 1963 Milan 2, Benfica 1 | 200ft |
| 1960 R. Madrid 7, Eintrach 3 | 200ft/400ft |

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1963 Spurs 5, At. Madrid 1 | 200ft |
| 1965 West Ham 2, TSV Munich 0 | 200ft |

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

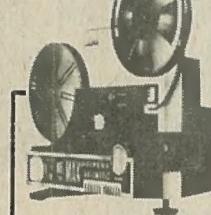
| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| *1978 Nott'ham. F. 1, Liverpool 0 | 200ft |
| Also col SOUND £17.20 | |
| *1977 Aston V. 3, Everton 2 | 200ft |
| Also col SOUND £17.20 | |
| *1976 Man. City 2, Newcastle 1 | 200ft |
| *1975 Aston Villa 1, Norwich 0 | 100ft |
| *1974 Wolves 2, Man. City 1 | 100ft |
| 1973 Spurs 1, Norwich 0 | 100ft |
| 1972 Stoke 2, Chelsea 1 | 200ft |
| 1971 Spurs 2, Aston V. 0 | 50ft |
| 1967 Q.P.R. 3, W.B.A. 2 | 200ft |

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EURO NATIONS CUP

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| *1976 Czech 7, W. Germany 5 | 400ft |
| Also b/w & col SOUND 400ft | |

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1968 Newcastle 3, Man. City 4 | 200ft |
|-------------------------------|-------|

INTERNATIONALS

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| *1977 Scotland 2, England 1 | 400ft |
| also 400ft col SOUND | |

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| *1977 England 2, Italy 0 | 200ft |
| also 200ft col SOUND | |

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| *1977 England 0, Holland 2 | 200ft/400ft |
| Also 200ft/400ft col SOUND | |

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1976 Scotland 2, England 1 | 200ft/400ft |
| also 400ft b/w SOUND | |

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| 1975 England 5, Scotland 1 | 200ft |
| also 400ft b/w SOUND | |

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| 1969 England 4, Scotland 1 | 200ft |
| 1967 Scotland 3, England 2 | 400ft |

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| 1953 Hungary 6, England 3 | 100ft |
| also 100ft b/w SOUND £5.30 | |

SPECIALS

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| GIANTS OF BRAZIL | 400ft |
| Also 400ft b/w SOUND £20. | |

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| PELE — Prince of soccer | 200ft |
| Also 400ft B/W SOUND | |

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| *SIX-GOAL HURST | 50ft |
| SIX-GOAL BEST | 50ft |

SCOTTISH CUP-FINALS

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 1976 Rangers 3, Hearts 1 | 200ft/400ft |
| Also 400ft B/W SOUND | |

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| *1973 Rangers 3, Celtic 2 | 200ft |
| Also 400ft B/W SOUND | |

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| *1972 Celtic 6, Hibs 1 | 100ft |
| Also 400ft B/W SOUND | |

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

CHARLTON

**From Third Division
to First in record time**

IT is difficult for today's younger Charlton supporters to think of the past. Their hopes and dreams lie in seeing Charlton play in the top flight. But it is the club's First Division glory days the older supporters remember so well.

The pre-War days of manager Jimmy Seed and players such as Jimmy and John Oakes, Harold Hobbs and Syd Hobbs. After World War Two came Chris Duffy, Gordon Hurst, Frank Lock, Charlie Vaughan and Johnny Summers to remember.

One player who spanned the years and holds the club appearance record is Sam Bartram. A magnificent goalkeeper who played 583 League games for the club. After spells as manager of York and Luton, Sam became a respected Sunday newspaper journalist, who retired this month.

In April, 1920, Charlton turned professional, having been formed in 1905, and entered the Southern League when 20 of its 21 members left to join the newly-formed Third Division (South) for the 1920-21



Boss at The Valley is Andy Nelson.



Former Charlton star Charlie Vaughan.

season.

Charlton's stay in the Southern League lasted only one season as the start of the 1921-22 term saw them also elected to the Third (South).

Charlton even left The Valley in 1923 for a short stay at Catford before returning to a ground which has become so well known to football supporters.

The club had an eight-season stay in the Third (South) before winning the Championship in 1929. It was a short life of only four seasons before they were back in the Third Division.

Their relegation saw the link-up of chairman Albert Gliksten and Jimmy Seed. Gliksten asked Seed to become manager and the former England inside-forward accepted.

It was the start of the incredible rise of Charlton. They finished fifth in 1933-34 and won the Third Division (South) title a year later. Then Charlton created Football League history by becoming the first club to go straight through the Second Division to the First.



Dave Shipperley rises to head a goal for Charlton against Sheffield United this season.

Even then there was no stopping Charlton. In the first season in Division One they finished runners-up in 1936-37 and had positions of fourth and third before War started in 1939.

League success before the War was followed by F.A. Cup glory afterwards. In 1946 they lost in the Final 4-1 to Derby, but a year later returned to Wembley to win the trophy by defeating Burnley 1-0 with a Chris Duffy goal.

It was to be the end of the glory years for Charlton and they finished bottom of Division One in the 1956-57 season.

Fourteen seasons in the Second Division, when twice they missed promotion by one place, ended with the club back in the Third Division in 1972. Although promotion was gained in 1975 it is a far cry from the crowd-packed Valley of former years.

PEN PICTURES

LES BERRY: Defender signed professional in January, 1974. Born London. Ht. 6.2. Wt. 12. L. App.: 93 and 2 sub. G:— 5.

TERRY BRISLEY: Midfielder signed from Millwall in January, 1978. Born London. Ht. 5.6. Wt. 10.6½. L. App.:— Orient 133 and 9 sub, Southend (loan) 8, Millwall 106 and 1 sub, Charlton 15 and 1 sub. G:— Orient 10, Millwall 15, Charlton 2.

DAVID CAMPBELL: Defender signed professional in June, 1977. Born Edinburgh. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 11.8. L. App.:— 14 and 5 sub. G:— 1.

ALAN DUGDALE: Central defender signed from Coventry in October, 1977. Born Kirkby. Ht. 5.8. Wt. 12.6½. L. App.:— Coventry 139 and 3 subs, Charlton 30.

MIKE FLANAGAN: Striker signed professional for Charlton in August, 1971, after being an amateur with Tottenham. England 'B' Cap. Born London. Ht. 5.10½. Wt. 12st. L. App.:— 216 and 13 sub. G:— 72.

STEVE GRITT: Striker or midfielder signed from Bournemouth in July,

1977. Born Bournemouth. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 10.9. L. App.:— Bournemouth 4 and 2 sub, Charlton 28 and 6 sub. G:— Bournemouth 3, Charlton 3.

DEREK HALES: Striker who rejoined Charlton in July, 1978, from West Ham. Born Lower Halstow, Kent. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 12.4. L. App.:— Luton 5 and 2 sub, Charlton 126 and 3 sub, Derby 22 and 1 sub, West Ham 23 and 1 sub. G:— Luton 1, Charlton 73, Derby 4, West Ham 10.

LAWRIE MADDEN: Defender signed professional in December, 1977. Born London. Ht. 6.0. Wt. 12.6. L. App.:— 3 and 1 sub.

KEITH PEACOCK: Midfielder signed professional in July, 1962. Born Barnhurst. Ht. 5.6½. Wt. 10.13. L. App.:— 487 and 16 sub. G:— 92.

MARK PENFOLD: Defender signed professional in April, 1974. Born London. Ht. 5.7. Wt. 10.6. L. App.:— 61 and 3 sub.

MARTIN ROBINSON: Striker signed from Tottenham in February, 1978. Born Ilford. Ht. 5.8 Wt. 11.5½. L. App.:— Tottenham 5 and

1 sub, Charlton 16. G:— Tottenham 2, Charlton 7.

PETER SHAW: Defender signed in December, 1977, from Staines Town. Born Northolt. Ht. 6.2. Wt. 14. L. App.:— 6 and 1 sub.

DAVE SHIPPERLEY: Central defender rejoined Charlton in February, 1978, from Gillingham whom he joined in May, 1974. Born Hillingdon. Ht. 6.3. Wt. 14.7. L. App.:— Plymouth (Loan) 1, Gillingham 144, Charlton (two spells) 108 and 8 sub. G:— Gillingham 2, Charlton (two spells) 11.

DICK TYDEMAN: Midfielder signed from Gillingham in December, 1976. Born Gillingham. Ht. 6.1½. Wt. 12.11. L. App.:— Gillingham 293 and 2 sub, Charlton 61. G:— Gillingham 12, Charlton 2.

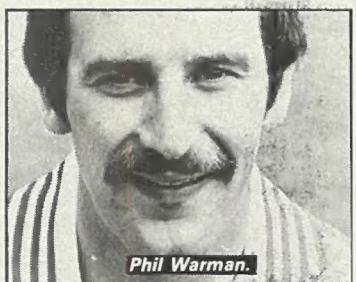
PHIL WARMAN: Defender signed professional in March, 1968. Born Downham, Kent. Ht. 5.7. Wt. 11.2. L. App.:— 249 and 3 sub. G:— 16.

JEFF WOOD: Goalkeeper signed from Harlow Town in November, 1975. Has been ever-present since League debut in February, 1976. Born London. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 10.9. L. App.:— 98.

INJURY-HIT AND ERRATIC

CHLTON Athletic are a mystery. One day looking like a team capable of beating any side in the Second Division, and then playing like one that would struggle even in the Third.

The return of Derek Hales after a long absence through injury will add more goalscoring power to the twin threat that Mike Flanagan and Martin Robinson already pose for opposing defences. But bad injuries this season to experienced defenders Alan Dugdale and Phil Warman have weakened a back-four that has already conceded too many goals for a team to be considered a serious threat for promotion this season.



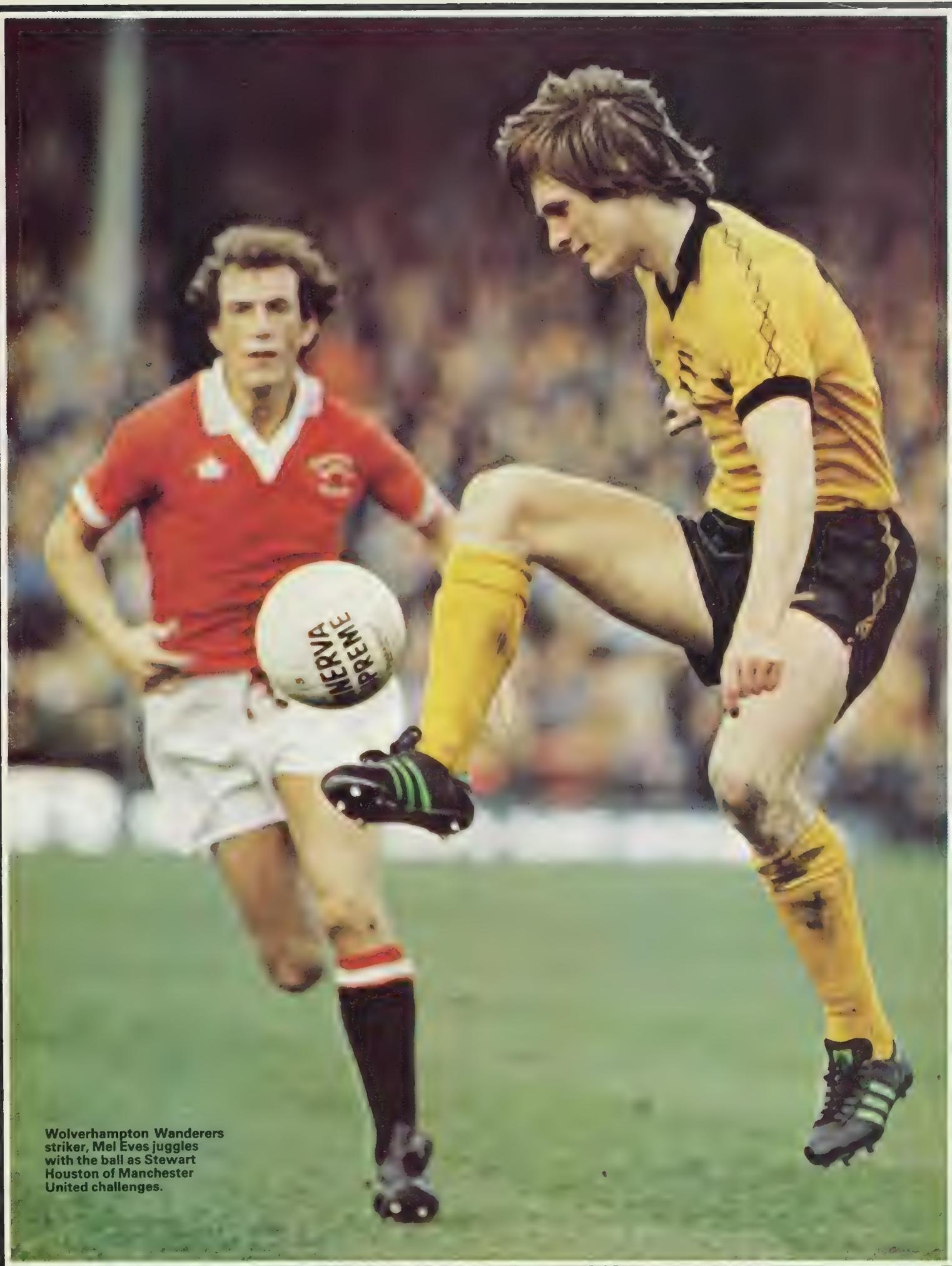
Phil Warman.

CHARLTTON



BACK ROW: (left to right) Alan Dugdale, David Campbell, Colin Powell, Steve Gritt, Lawrie Madden, Tony Burman, **MIDDLE ROW:** Andy Nelson (manager), Dick Tydeman, Dave Cripps (assistant manager), Harry Cripps, Steve Chalk, Les Berry, Peter Shaw, Harry Cripps (assistant manager), Mike Flanagan

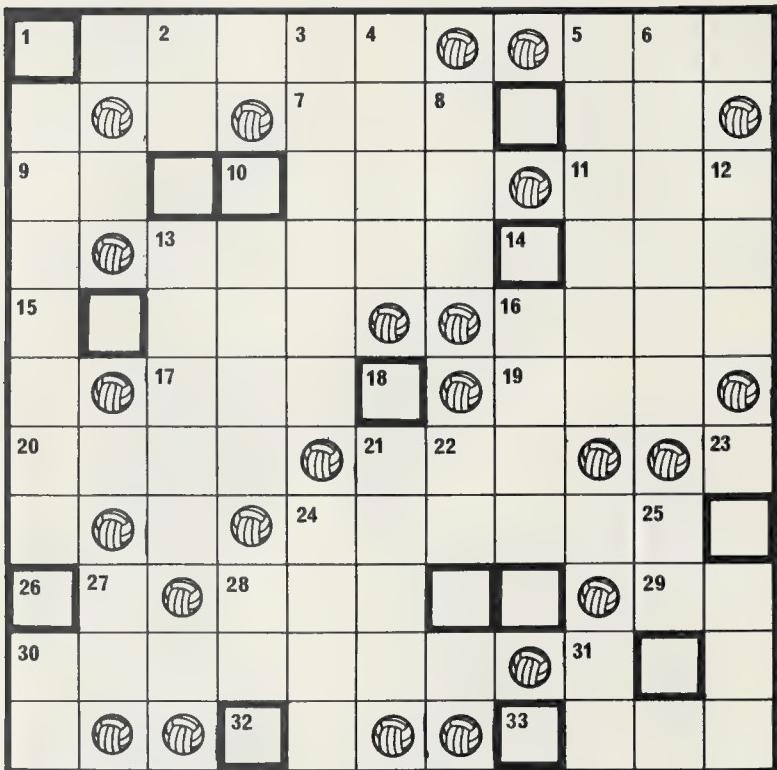
FRONT ROW: Mark Penfold, Phil Wairman, Derek Hales, Terry Brisley, Martin Robinson, Jeff Wood.



Wolverhampton Wanderers
striker, Mel Eves juggles
with the ball as Stewart
Houston of Manchester
United challenges.

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Manchester United defender. Answers on page 38.



ACROSS:

- (1) — Hunter, Bristol City defender.
- (5) Weep — perhaps over the team's performance.
- (7) Lean or scanty.
- (9) The —, nickname of Everton.
- (11) Rog-r --lmer of Man. City, omissions reversed.
- (13) PSV —, U.E.F.A. Cup winners, 1978.
- (15) F-et-am-G-oun- (Darlington). Fragment from the omissions.
- (16) ----ing. What word completes the English Fourth Division club?
- (17) Ch----a; from Stamford Bridge.
- (19) Alberto Tar---ini of Birmingham City.
- (20) Mea--- Lan- (See 1 Down). Due from the omissions.
- (21) Came out on top!
- (24) Harder to tackle or overcome.
- (26) A negative from Feyenoord (Dutch League club).
- (28) Pet-- Nic--l-on (Bolton). "Beach" from the missing letters.
- (29) Stuart--tcalfe of Blackburn Rovers.
- (30) Picks one's way through a crowd, for example.
- (31) --ll-borough; Sheffield Wednesday's ground.
- (32) Eric G--es of Ipswich Town.
- (33) Wagers — perhaps on the results of the matches.

DOWN:

- (1) English Division Two club from Clue 20 ground. (5 & 6)
- (2) They are in charge of and control the matches.
- (3) Corrects or improves.
- (4) David ----ham of Nottingham Forest.
- (5) Cottage, London home of Fulham.
- (6) The same again — as on TV!
- (8) Billy ---croft of Middlesbrough.
- (10) — Mill; ground of Mansfield Town.
- (12) The last part of the team from Deepdale!
- (14) One of Luton's colours.
- (18) — Park, Blackburn Rovers ground.
- (22) Racec----e Ground, Wrexham's ground.
- (23) Urge one's way — towards goal, for instance.
- (24) Nor---mp-on Town (English 4th Div. club).
- (25) To send forth.
- (27) An exclamation of surprise from St. Johnstone.
- (28) Les ---ley, a Coventry City 'keeper.
- (31) Tony ---nry of Manchester City.

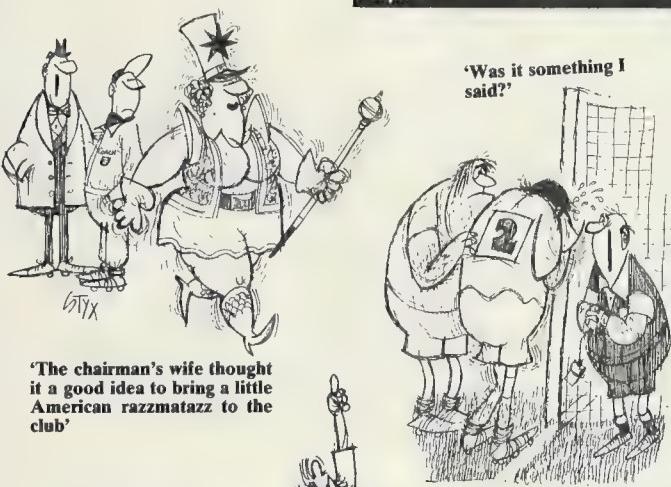


'I reckon he thinks I'm a zebra crossing, ref — keeps walking all over me!'

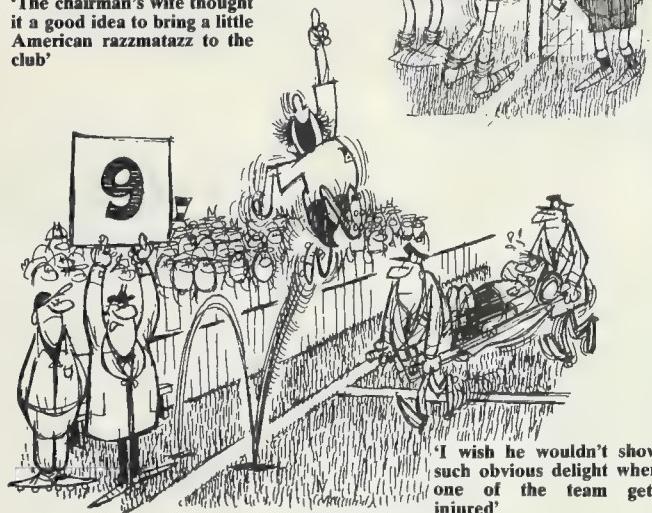


This week young Spurs 'keeper MARK KENDALL selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.

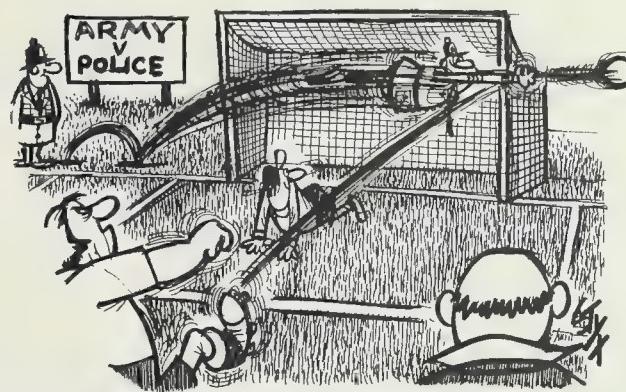
'Was it something I said?'



'The chairman's wife thought it a good idea to bring a little American razzmatazz to the club'



'I wish he wouldn't show such obvious delight when one of the team gets injured'



BIG JOE DESERVES ANOTHER ENGLAND CHANCE



JOE Corrigan, Manchester City's six foot five inch giant 'keeper is clearly the most improved in the country.

That's a fact few people inside soccer would argue against.

But the big question at the moment is: Is the man who makes a habit of picking up star ratings on a Saturday afternoon, ready to win a regular place in the full England side?

His manager, Tony Book, is in no doubt whatsoever.

"Joe's the best in England now, and deserves to be after the way he's worked at his game," says

Book emphatically.

A view which seemed to be echoed by Sir Alf Ramsey, in a Sunday newspaper series.

The former England manager, not normally one for singling out individuals, insisted Corrigan could consider himself unlucky to be seen as the third in line behind Ray Clemence and Peter Shilton.

And Ramsey maintained that given the chance, big Joe could keep both the others on the sidelines.

An unexpected accolade, which Corrigan was more than delighted to receive.

"Sir Alf's opinions are still highly respected in the game, and I feel extremely flattered by what he said," says Joe.

"But the big problem is actually getting a run of a couple of games to show what I can do."

"I've made two appearances for the full England side so far. Well, one and a half really. I played the whole game against Brazil last April, then before that Jimmy Rimmer and myself shared the match against Italy in the American Bicentennial tournament in 1976.

"But on both occasions I only got in because Ray and Peter were unavailable, or because the boss had set out to give his other 'keepers' a workout. Not because I'd won the number one jersey on merit.

"I believe I'm worth a place in the side. That's not being big-headed, just the positive kind of attitude every professional should have. It's up to me now to prove my point beyond any doubt."

Joe, as quiet and likeable off the field as he is towering and commanding on it, clearly feels no bitterness towards Clemence and Shilton, whom he regards as friends, as well as fellow professionals. And he has no complaints about Ron Greenwood.

In fact, he bears genuine sympathy for what he sees as an embarrassment of riches for the England manager.

"It must be very difficult for him to choose between the three of us," said Corrigan.

Ironically, despite missing out on a regular spot in the full side, Joe believes he has progressed on the international front.

"That's because I've played a number of times for the England 'B' side, and as an over-age player for the Under-21's. I've enjoyed every minute of it," he said.

"Unlike some players, I certainly wouldn't turn down the chance of playing in representative games."

"I consider it an honour to represent my country at any level."

In the meantime, though, while he's waiting for the big prize, Joe is determined to keep turning in top class performances for City.

"It's a question of having to," he explained. "After all, this club are my bread and butter — with England the jam."

And that means pushing himself through the kind of extra training sessions that send mere onlookers away feeling exhausted.

"I suppose you mean what I call my 'pressure work,'" said Joe. "Where I get people to fire balls from all angles and distances. High and low, just as quickly as they can. It helps tone up my reflexes and keeps me sharp."

The results speak for themselves.

Three years ago the big man, his confidence in tatters, was a whisker away from quitting the game altogether.

But through sheer hard work and dedication he's turned those bitter, derisory jeers into delirious cheers.

Why PETER decided not to quit...

BARNSLEY goalkeeper Peter Springett looks upon his new boss, Allan Clarke, as a life-saver.

The 32-year-old former England Under-23 international explains: "I was contemplating quitting the game last summer when, out of the blue, Allan was given the job of player-manager.

"It seemed like a miracle. Suddenly the future looked rosy. After all, we had quite a useful team — we finished sixth the previous season — and as far as I was concerned all we needed was a new approach.

"Allan's arrival provided that because he came to us as an established striker, one of the best finishers in the business, a star in his own right, and immediately made me realise Barnsley could really take-off under his guidance.

"That's why I regard him as the man who has added another couple of years at least to my professional life.

"Suddenly there was optimism, where before we seemed to be plodding along from week to week getting nowhere.

"The boss has injected a new

spirit and confidence. Now we see ourselves as a Third or Second Division club. For the first time since I came here we're playing before 10,000-plus crowds."

Springett, a balding, happy survivor of more than 450 League games with Queens Park Rangers, Sheffield Wednesday, and Barnsley, has known Clarke, who is still only 31, for a long time. They were room-mates with the England Under-23 squad a decade ago.

They then went their vastly different ways. Clarke joined Leeds United to enjoy a glittering career, winning 19 England caps and medals galore. Springett stayed at Hillsborough to clock up nearly 200 League appearances before moving to Fourth Division Barnsley four seasons ago.

Because of the brilliance of Gordon Banks, the London-born Springett never won a full cap.

"But I've no real regrets," he says. "It's no disgrace being overshadowed by a player of Gordon's ability."

It looks as though Springett could land a promotion medal with Barnsley this season. From his

vantage point on the goal-line he has seen enough in the first half of the season to convince him "The Reds" can clinch promotion this time.

"Allan's big contribution has been the way he has given us pride in ourselves," he says. "He's made us think big. Some of the lads have developed a tremendous belief in themselves because of the boss's presence with them on the field. They're prepared to try out new skills, while the battle is in progress because Allan encourages them such a lot.

"I couldn't fault Allan in anything since he came here, apart from his decision to play in midfield when Barnsley were tumbled out of the League Cup by Chesterfield at the first stage. Some of our players thought it was crazy for one of the country's top strikers to waste himself playing deep," says Springett. "And we told him so!"

That Clarke accepted this criticism in the spirit in which it was given indicates the depth of team spirit at the club.

"Allan is one of the best — as a man and boss," insists Springett.



"One of the first things he did when he took over was to negotiate new contracts for us all, and from that moment we knew we had a manager who put his players before everything.

"Money can't buy loyalty, but Allan's action was his way of showing us he was behind us all the way. Now the lads can't do enough for him."

With that spirit, who would bet against Barnsley winning promotion to the Third Division this season for the first time in ten years?

It would take a brave man to bet against Allan Clarke achieving further honours before he is through at Barnsley.



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At one time, in my early days in football, I was never slow to make a prediction about something. However, I ended up wrong, with egg on my face, so often that I decided only to commit myself to an opinion when I couldn't avoid it.

For this fickle game of ours is notorious for suddenly producing the unexpected, often against all the odds. And this season, so far, we've certainly had our fair share — or unfair share — of shocks and surprises.

But that's what makes football so fascinating and has given it such a huge following throughout the world. It's an ever-changing, absorbing scene, with so many facets.

Take the incredible Yuletide fortunes of two clubs, for instance. Coventry, not in the title race, took on second-placed Everton, at Highfield Road, outplayed them for most of the game, and ended up winning by 3-2. At one stage City were leading 3-0. Three days later Coventry travelled to Bristol City's Ashton Gate, and got soundly thrashed 5-0!

Arsenal had a similar experience, astounding everyone with a 5-0 win over North London neighbours Spurs — and at White Hart Lane, too, in front of the Tottenham faithful. Superb, morale-boosting stuff for their meeting with Championship contenders West Brom at Highbury — at least that's the way it seemed.

And what happened? The Gunners dropped both points at Highbury, for the first time this season, to Ron Atkinson's team.

At least when we beat Spurs — albeit at Anfield — early in the season by 7-0, we continued in successful vein for many more

Anfield so far has been the departure of left-back Joey Jones, who helped us win the European cup in 1977 in Rome, to his first and former club Wrexham. After Liverpool bought Alan Kennedy from Newcastle, I fully expected Joey to remain as cover for our back-four, but he decided to return to Wrexham, the only other club he would ever consider playing for.

It was sad to lose him. We all wish him the best of luck, and hope that once again he finds himself amongst the honours.

The battle for the Championship is working out much as I anticipated.

RAY CLEMENCE
talking soccer



'SHOCKS

'F.A. Cup-winners Ipswich have struggled'

matches.

In fact, we at Liverpool had an uncharacteristic start to the season. Usually we begin slowly, but this time we hit tremendous form from the first whistle and gained almost maximum points in the first 20 games.

By contrast, our showing in the European and League Cups was disastrous. Drawn against Nottingham Forest in the First Round of the European Cup, we failed to score even one goal against them, losing 2-0 at the City Ground and drawing nil-nil at Anfield in the return.

In our first appearance in the League Cup, we were drawn with Sheffield United away at Bramall Lane and were knocked out by a goal to nil.

We played Southend recently in the Third Round of the F.A. Cup, at Roots Hall, but I'll be talking about that tie, and the draw for the Fourth Round, in my next column.

Internally, the only shock at



Brian Talbot was a member of the Ipswich Cup winning side which has struggled in the League.



Arsenal's Alan Sunderland celebrates his first of three goals against rivals Tottenham.

AND SURPRISES'

pated, except that I have been surprised at the marvellous consistency of West Brom, and at the disappointing opposition from Manchester City.

Once again, City are failing to live up to the glittering potential of their squad, packed with talented internationals of great skill and experience.

For a long period — in which I believe they went ten games without notching up a win — they seemed to be right out of luck. Both we and Everton beat them by only 1-0, hardly a decisive scoreline, on our grounds.

Although previously, Liverpool had inflicted a 4-0 defeat on City at Maine Road.

The clubs now propping up the rest at the bottom end of the Division are the ones I expected to be there. Chelsea are suffering with a team containing too many inexperienced youngsters, and from having no money to go out and buy the right replacements — if they were available.

New manager Danny Blanchflower is surely finding it a harder task inspiring Chelsea than he has had in driving Northern Ireland to the top of our World Cup qualifying

group.

I feel, particularly, for captain Ray Wilkins, carrying such a load of responsibility on his shoulders that it affected his own game.

F.A. Cup holders, Ipswich, expected by many to emerge as a dangerous force in the First Division this season, have partly suffered from the sort of hangover that often besets a team that has won something. Particularly a team that has waited a long time to bring some silverware to a trophy room that has never had the opportunity to display a major trophy.

It can be very hard for a club to motivate themselves for the next season. There can be too many diversions, such as invitations to be feted with the trophy.

Ipswich have also had a tough time with injuries. I should think every player has had his turn of going missing. Roger Osborne, scorer of the glorious Cup-winning goal, has been out of the Town first team since that memorable winning F.A. Cup Final.

Despite struggling in the League, though, Ipswich have succeeded in hanging on to a place in the Cup-Winners' Cup competition.

Manchester United, stiffened by

big money signings such as Joe Jordan and Gordon McQueen, were expected to mount a serious challenge from the outset. But they've had trouble welding themselves together effectively, particularly at home, where they were so formidable and feared.

Apart from their outfield problems, they have also had goalkeeping troubles. An attempt to sign Jim Blyth from Coventry City as replacement for Paddy Roche fell through for medical reasons, and while apprentice Gary Bailey was being given his chance, the club were reported to be seeking the services of a crack World Cup 'keeper, Fillol, from Argentina.

Young Bailey, although at fault for

'Arsenal beat Spurs 5-0 away — then lost 2-1 at home to West Brom'

our first goal, did well in a lacklustre United team whom we beat 3-0 at Old Trafford on Boxing Day, and had no chance of saving our other goals.

On the managerial front, I was sorry to see Sammy Chung — a heck of a nice fellow, and a very able man — lose his job at Wolves. It's the old, old case of a board making the obvious decision when things are going badly, replacing the manager without giving him an extended chance to correct the problem. After all, Sammy did bring Wolves back into the First Division.

His replacement, John Barnwell, is well-qualified for the post, having done wonders at Peterborough, but I wonder if he can sustain Wolves'

improvement for very long.

I was truly astonished at the sudden decision of Jock Stein to leave Leeds United and accept the Scotland post. I was convinced he planned to emulate with Leeds the achievements he had accomplished with Celtic.

I couldn't comprehend why he now found the Scotland offer irresistible when he could have continued in the post years ago, but chose to switch to Celtic.

I can only guess another factor swayed him, perhaps a domestic one, with his wife finding it hard to settle down South.

Be that as it may, the important thing is that Scotland now have the best qualified man, in my opinion, to lead the country. If Jock Stein had been in charge of Scotland during the last two World Cups, they would at least have returned with their heads held high on both occasions.

The transfer scene, as usual, has been busy, with inflated fees being paid for players outside the "star category". Even Third Division sides, with slender finances, have been paying out six-figure sums.

I can only put it down to clubs hanging on to their best players. At

one time, everyone had his price — even the superstar — but it seems the "no sale" notices have been slapped up by clubs determined to hang on to talent they regard as trophy-winners and, hence, crowd-pullers.

The transfer of Charlie George from Derby to Southampton had an unpleasant side to it. "Freedom of Contract" is supposed to have been brought in, yet Charlie was banned by Derby from moving to neighbours Nottingham Forest after they had been granted permission to speak to him.

In the Second Division, Notts County, for whom I have a soft spot because I once signed amateur forms for them, have suddenly blossomed into promotion-challengers.

The others at the top of that table are the ones I expected to be there.

The same goes for those thrusting in the Third, and it's heartening to see Wimbledon, only elected to the League in 1977-78, leading the field in the Fourth.

The same goes for Wigan, around five places below them, who came in this season.

Their showings have clearly demonstrated there are clubs outside the League who could more than justify their inclusion.

In view of this, I suggest a reorganisation of the re-election system, with the automatic loss of League status to a team that has finished bottom for two successive seasons, to allow a selected applicant to take its place.

Goals are what fans pay to see, and the increase over last term is refreshing. Liverpool, for instance, have collected more at this stage than two-thirds through seasons in which we've finished winning something.

Goals are more spectacular, too. Players are bending the ball, like the South American originators.

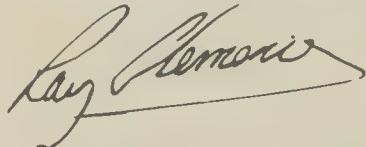
Two goals readily spring to mind. Liam Brady's at Spurs, and Tony Currie's goal for Leeds v. Southampton.

The technique certainly makes life more difficult for us 'keepers. A ball going yards wide which suddenly swerves in towards the top corner of the goal can be murder to reach.

Crowds seem to be down marginally — although not at our games — and I wonder whether the fear of hooliganism is the cause of some families getting out of the match-going habit.

I'll end by going against my policy of making predictions with the forecast what's happened so far will ensure this season develops into one of the most stimulating for years, with gripping battles for honours at all levels.

A final word about Liverpool's League match this Saturday, against Coventry City at Highfield Road. We're determined to succeed where Everton failed. Get a win, or at least a draw, to prove once again we're the best on Merseyside.



PICKING

WINNERS'

A player from each Division forecasts those

FIRST DIVISION



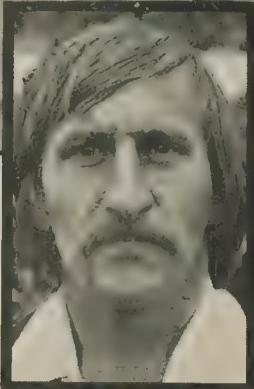
'M going for the sides now at the top as the ones to contest the major honours this season. I reckon Liverpool's experience and know-how should clinch the Championship — but Everton, West Brom and Nottingham Forest won't be far behind.

When we played Liverpool, I was very impressed — they were so good when beating us. They did have a bad spell soon after when they lost twice in three days to Arsenal and Anderlecht, but they quickly recovered to get back on the winning trail.

Their Merseyside rivals Everton will be there or thereabouts.

They're a much better side now they've bought Colin Todd from Derby. He is world-class.

Forest? Their successful run had to end sometime. Cloughie's team never give up but I can't see them winning the title again. The pressure on them will take its toll.



TOMMY HUTCHISON
(Coventry City)

soon, I'm sure. Sides to go down? Again, I wouldn't look much farther than the ones pretty close to it right now.

Chelsea, Birmingham and Wolves are the three worst sides we've met this season. Birmingham were very poor. They lacked flair and there was no one who could win a game for them. They're lucky Trevor Francis has

recovered from injury.

Chelsea's youngsters have lost their edge, that vital enthusiasm that wins games and playing in a poor side clearly hasn't helped Ray Wilkins. He's struggled this season and has had injury problems.

Wolves looked frail at the back — like Chelsea — and those three are in the greatest danger at this stage of the season.

A bit of a gap has opened up at the bottom of the table and the teams down there will have to produce something special to climb to safety.

SECOND DIVISION



MIKE FLANAGAN
(Charlton)

THE Second Division is wide open this season. So many teams are in with a chance.

Anyone who wins three or four games on the trot could find themselves right in the promotion race.

Equally, a side losing that number in succession can be in relegation trouble. Yes, it's that tight.

We've played the main promotion hopefuls, Stoke, Sunderland, West Ham, Crystal Palace and Brighton, so I know quite a bit about them.

The strange side has been Sunderland. We lost by a single goal at Roker Park and then beat them at home. But since then, they've had some fine results and are now right back in contention. Without a manager, they did ever so well. But I'd go for Stoke, Palace and West Ham as the likeliest at this stage.

Palace now have a fine blend of youth and experience, and with Terry Venables in charge, they must have a great chance.

West Ham, still striving for consistency, might blow out. If they do, I'll tip Sunderland to snatch that third place, especially if they keep doing well in the New Year.

A problem for both West Ham and Crystal Palace, however, is there are so many London clubs in the Second Division and that means they face a heck of a lot of tough local derbies. Orient caused something of a shock by winning at West Ham on Boxing Day. No one expected that.

At the other end, I have a sneaking feeling Millwall could get out of trouble. Manager George Petchey has paid £100,000 for Nick Chatterton from Palace and brought former Southampton defender Mel Blyth

out of non-League football. With these two in the team results were bound to improve.

Also, Millwall showed last season they can do the "impossible" by getting out of the relegation zone.

I'd say Cardiff are the favourites for relegation at this stage with two other sides from a group comprising Millwall, Sheffield United, Leicester and Blackburn.

Charlton won 4-1 at Cardiff. The Welsh club were certainly weak at the back. And Preston, too, look dodgy in that department, although they have improved of late.



TOP LEFT . . . Alan Hansen (left) and Phil Thomson celebrate a Liverpool goal with signals.

ABOVE . . . West Ham goalkeeper Mervyn Day fists clear to stop an attack from Crystal Palace.

AND 'LOSERS'

teams he feels will find League success or failure

THIRD DIVISION



SHREWSBURY are the best side we've met in the Third Division this season. Wednesday don't meet leaders Watford for the first time until the end of March, so I can't tell you much about them.

As I've said, Shrewsbury look dead certs for promotion. They have big lads up-front who work hard and their style suits the team.

Shrewsbury haven't any real stars. But they have a lot of determination and team spirit. That is what you need to get out of the Third Division. You must have skill, but not as much as in the First or Second.

Swansea are the other side I'd tip to make it at this stage. Mind you their defence needs strengthening. We lost 4-2 at their place, but they didn't look secure at the back. They're getting away with it because they are so strong in attack — and they go at you all the time.

From what I've seen, Watford are also good going forward.

They have, in Ross Jenkins, the

BRIAN HORNSBY

(Sheffield Wed.)

League's top scorer, while black striker Luther Blissett has made a big impact this season. They have a good set-up on and off the field, with Bertie Mee and Elton John helping manager Graham Taylor. Watford are a side always likely to score a few goals, which makes them so dangerous.

If any of those three slip, Swindon could come in to the reckoning — if they can improve their away form.

Clubs below Watford, Swansea, Shrewsbury and Swindon could well challenge them if they get a winning run going. And equally, a side in mid-table could slip right in to trouble if they lose a few games on the trot.

At the moment Lincoln, Bury, Peterborough and Brentford are favourites for the drop.

I reckon Peterborough could definitely go. Their confidence seems to have departed. They lost a good manager in John Barnwell and it's a slippery slide once you're on it. Lincoln look ordinary and I don't rate Bury much, either.

FOURTH DIVISION

WIMBLEDON, Portsmouth, Barnsley, Grimsby, Aldershot and ourselves. Take your pick of four from that list. It will be that tight at the end of the season, any of those could go up.

I'd go for Wimbledon, Portsmouth, Reading and Barnsley but things change fast in the Fourth Division, so you never know. What is certain, though, is there is far more football being played in the Fourth this season than last term. The standard is much higher than ever before.

Last season no team could cope with Watford's fine organisation on and off the field and they were runaway winners. This term there are several clubs almost as good.

Allan Clarke's Barnsley are an example. "Sniffer" is still a heck of a good player and is organising them well. Portsmouth have had some great results, Grimsby know what this Division is all about and Aldershot are within shouting distance of the top.

Dario Gradi's the man making Wimbledon special. I didn't think much of The Dons when we played

against them this season but he has got the side working for each other; there are no real stars in the team. Alan Cork puts the goals away, so you've got to fancy them.

This is only their second season in the League and they look like continuing the "hasty rise" of other new-boys of recent years, such as Oxford and Cambridge.

Teams likely to be in the re-election zone at the end? I'd go for the usual bunch — Halifax, Rochdale, Darlington, Crewe, Doncaster and one or two others.

Darlington are very dull and it always amazes me how sides like Halifax and Rochdale keep going. When we went to Rochdale there only seemed to be about 800 there — it was very depressing. It's the teams that go to these places and pick up points that will go up. But it's hard to motivate yourself on grounds where there is no atmosphere at all.

Still, this is where professionalism comes in and you simply HAVE to find the zip even though the atmosphere may be missing. Points are vital, whatever the situation.



PAUL BENNETT
(Reading)



TOP LEFT . . . A winner! Watford's Ross Jenkins nets spectacularly against Gillingham.
ABOVE . . . Aldershot's Murray Brodie (right) on his 300th appearance against Hartlepool.

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Local derbies

Looking back through some old fixtures, I see there were four big First Division local derbies on 27th September, 1975, and would like to know the results?

SEAN MONTGOMERY,
FRANCE

As so often happens in local derbies, Sean, three of the four were drawn — 0-0 between Everton and Liverpool and Spurs and Arsenal; and 2-2 in Manchester where City entertained United.

The one decisive result was a 2-1 Aston Villa win over neighbours Birmingham.

1938 Cup Final

My great-uncle, Jimmy Milton, played in goal for East Fife when they won the Scottish Cup in 1938. Can you tell me their scorers, and the rest of the team?

FRANCIS COYNE,
BELLSHILL

By beating Kilmarnock 4-2 in a replayed Final after a 1-1 draw, East Fife became the first Second Division side to win the Scottish Cup. Francis.

McLeod scored for the Filters in the first game, and McKerral (two), McLeod, and Miller in the triumphant replay.

Playing in front of your goalkeeping great-uncle, the rest of the East Fife team was — Laird, Tate, Russell, Sneddon, Harvey, Adams, McLeod, McCartney, Miller, McKerral. (Herd played in place of Harvey in the first game).

Brendan Batson

Did West Bromwich's Brendan Batson ever play for Arsenal?

WALLY HOWARD,
LONDON, N.16

Yes, Wally, he did — though without making the same impact he's had since.

Batson made his League debut for The Gunners in the 1971-72 season — but made only six appearances, plus another four as sub, before moving on to Cambridge.

There he had 163 League games before West Bromwich signed him last February.

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Chris Lawler

Reading in SHOOT recently about goalscoring full-backs, as a 17-year-old exiled Liverpudlian I'd like to know how many Chris Lawler scored?

ARTHUR GILFOYLE,
AUSTRALIA

I'm afraid I haven't his overall record,

Arthur, but in League games alone I can tell you Lawler scored 41 in his 406 First Division outings for Liverpool.

He finished his League career with 36 more games for Portsmouth (no goals), and another 36 for Stockport (three goals).

Lawler's best scoring season was 1969-70, when he was Liverpool's second-highest League scorer with ten goals — all from open play without a penalty, or even a free-kick, to help.

SHORT PASSES

The white ball first came into official use in 1951.

(Kenny Greig, Belfast)

The 149,547 fans who paid to watch the Scotland-England international at Hampden Park, Glasgow in 1937 established a record British crowd.

(Jock Baxter, Glasgow)

Arthur Rowley holds the aggregate League scoring record. He retired in 1965 after scoring four goals for West Bromwich Albion, 27 for Fulham, 251 for Leicester and 152 for Shrewsbury, making a grand total of 434 goals.

(Adam Warrington, Exeter)

Former England manager Sir Alf Ramsey was born in 1920.

(John Harpmen, Clacton-on-Sea)

Liverpool have won the European Cup twice; the U.E.F.A. Cup twice; the Super Cup once; and been Finalists in the Cup-Winners' Cup.

(Anthony Green, Salford)

Kenny Burns, of Nottingham Forest, was last season's Footballer of the Year.

The first recipient of the Football Writers' Association's statuette was Stan Matthews in 1947-48. He won it again in 1962-63. Tom Finney (Preston) won the trophy twice in 1954-55 and 1957-58, and Danny Blanchflower also received the honour on two occasions, in 1958-59 and 1961-62.

(Howard Fox, Reading)

Would you believe it is 14 years since the Football League first allowed substitutes. The sub system was adopted in 1965 after League representatives had voted 39-10 in favour.

But Wales used 12 players as far back as 1903 when Roosie, their goalkeeper, retired injured against England at Wrexham. Davies, of Bolton, was allowed to take his place as sub.

(Ian Hinckman, Walsall)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

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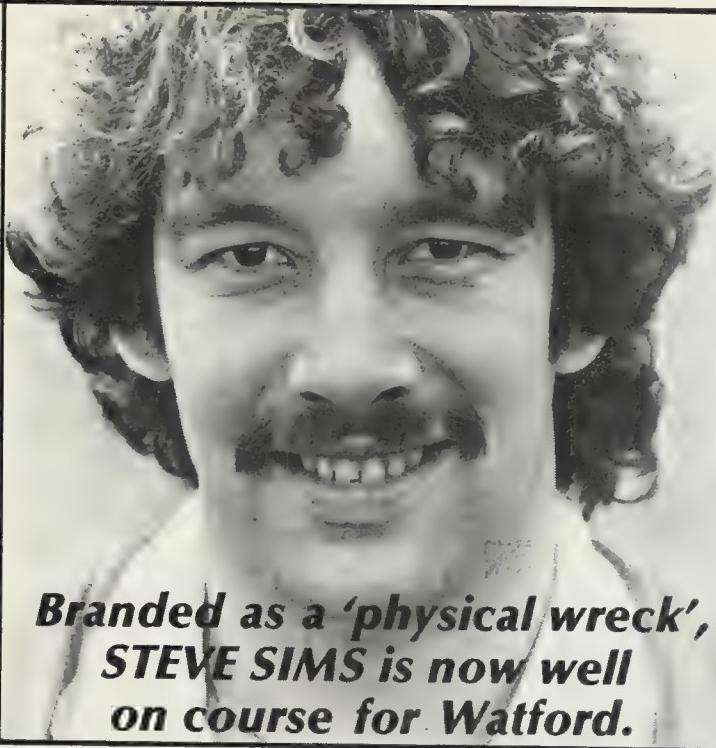
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TOP SHOT PROMOTIONS
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Branded as a 'physical wreck', STEVE SIMS is now well on course for Watford.

STEVE Sims has experienced more elation and despair in half a season than most players pack into a professional career covering almost 20 years.

One moment he was unwittingly branded a physical wreck after medical experts had persuaded Derby County to abandon their plans to spend £240,000 in buying him from Leicester.

The next, he was toasting his transfer from Filbert Street to Watford for a record Third Division fee.

Only Sims knows how desperate he felt when Derby rejected him after manager Tommy Docherty had outlined the role he could play in rejuvenating the First Division club.

"I had a meal and a drink with Mr. Docherty one evening in November," says Sims. "He told me exactly what he wanted me to do, to play alongside Roy McFarland. He thought I could learn a lot from Roy's influence."

"I'd had a medical, and the following week returned to Derby to hear the result of the X-rays.

"Mr. Docherty said there was something wrong with my knee and ankle and he had no option but to call the deal off."

"I was stunned. There was nothing I could say because I had never felt fitter in my life."

The X-ray examination had revealed a suspect right ankle and a defective right knee, a legacy of cartilage trouble Sims had suffered on the England B tour to the Far East and New Zealand last summer.

"I'd had one operation to remove the cartilage and that had been successful, so I couldn't understand or accept the medical opinion."

"The so-called ankle trouble was the biggest laugh of the lot. The X-ray showed up an ankle injury I received at the age of 12 when I was knocked off my bicycle by a motorbike. My right leg was broken and I received head injuries."

"But I soon recovered and was back on the football pitch playing as competitively as ever. I suffered

no after-effects, otherwise I'd never have become a pro footballer. In fact, my right leg is stronger than my left and takes the weight in tackles."

Sims was so outraged by the medical diagnosis that he sought a second opinion in Leicester — and received the thumbs-up from a specialist.

"I was happy with the verdict — yet feeling dissatisfied playing only reserve football with Leicester.

"Fortunately, I hadn't lost confidence in my ability. I had also been cheered by two letters from Derby fans saying how sorry they were the deal had fallen through."

But the 6ft. 1½ins., 13½ stone pivot had little time to reflect on his misfortune before Graham Taylor, Watford's enterprising 33-year-old manager was splashing out £200,000 on Sims.

Affinity

Sims could hardly believe his luck — one day a reject, the next wanted.

"Now I'm on top of the world and can honestly say that, apart from a First Division club, Watford is the one I would have wanted to join," beams Sims.

He shares a strong affinity with Taylor. They both come from Lincolnshire and Taylor has scrutinised Sims' progress since he played for a grammar school in Lincoln when Taylor managed Lincoln City in the Fourth Division.

"After I left school I played for Lincoln United, the area's top amateur club and would probably have gone to Lincoln as an apprentice had they had a youth team.

"As it turned out I was spotted by Leicester scout Ray Shaw and I thought I would make a regular player in the first team.

"However, I am sure Watford will gain promotion, and then I shall be playing against my old team-mates next season."

Steve Sims deserves that success after passing through the blackest episode of his life.

NOW THEY'RE 'WINNING' WIGAN!

Ian McNeill

WIGAN Athletic, the Football League's newest recruits, could hardly have got off to a worse start. In their first five League games the Springfield Park club had collected just one point, although during that time they had beaten Third Division Tranmere Rovers in the League Cup.

But by the turn of the year The Latics had lifted themselves to within striking distance of the promotion pack and were improving all the time.

So how did the transformation take place? "For a start we decided to turn every one of those players we had in the Northern Premier into full-time professionals," said team boss, Ian McNeill, "because I thought they were capable of doing the job."

"Some of them made the transition, but there were two or three who were finding things a little bit difficult. We had a board meeting and I was asked if I wanted money to buy players and to strengthen the team."

"I decided, NO. To me it was imperative the players should have time to settle. After all, five weeks isn't very long. So we gave it to the end of September, and by that time we'd really turned the corner and started to get results."

"The lads who had a question mark hanging over them simply took longer to adjust. In fact, the team that played Stockport County at Edgeley Park, where we won 1-0 on November 3rd, contained eight of the players from our Premier League days."

"Until we were defeated 2-1 the following Friday night at Newport County to an 88th minute Nigel Vaughan goal, we'd gone nine matches and only lost once, and in those nine matches we'd only conceded two goals."

"Defensively we've performed very well. Goalkeeper John Brown and the rest of the defenders are excellently organised."

Scottish born Ian, who took over at Springfield Park two-and-a-half years ago — his second spell — and a former player with Aberdeen, Brighton, Leicester and Southend, is not an advocate of the saying "if you don't give away goals, you don't lose matches".

"We adopt an attacking philosophy," he emphasises. "There's no way we will ever play defensively. We've certainly not played with any defensive thoughts in mind. At Stockport we were a goal up, but in the last ten minutes we were still going strong and looking for goals."

"If there is a fault in the team's make up, then it's one where we're not putting away as many chances as we should; the end product could be better. But we've been picking up points and winning matches."

"I'm happy with the team we've got and we're progressing at the rate that we want to progress. If we want to go farther, then maybe we'd have to enter the transfer market and buy a few players."

Same Theme

Is McNeill talking about promotion? "When we started out we said if we finished the season in mid-table, then we'd be happy. The theme still applies. But once you're halfway up the table with only half the season left and you see you're only three points behind fourth place, you realise how close you are to being Third Division candidates."

"But it did come harder in our first nine games. We were making a lot of errors, chiefly through anxiety. Yet I always felt the players were good enough and given time they would come right."

"The town has responded well to Fourth Division football. You've only got to look at our gates. We're possibly the third best as far as attendance figures go. We've averaged around 6,500 and the potential at Wigan is fantastic."

"Kenny Banks is my right-hand man. He's been here as a player and trainer and coach for close on 30 years. He's tremendous."

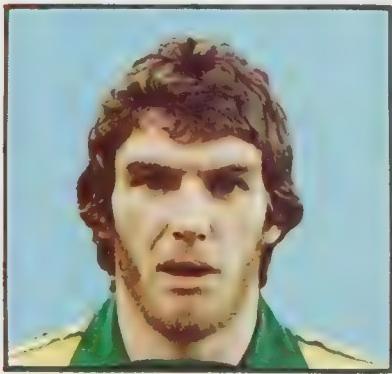
"We've an excellent team spirit and, from my own point of view, being a manager of a Football League club is simply great. I served my apprenticeship at non-League level and I think it stands you in good stead. It's possibly as good a way as the rest to serve an apprenticeship for a Football League manager."



Neil Orr (Morton)



Trevor Francis (Birmingham)



Peter Withe (Newcastle Utd)



John Hollins (Q.P.R.)



Steve Williams (Southampton)



John Radford (Blackburn)



Drew Jarvie (Aberdeen)



Bobby McDonald (Coventry)



Alan Sunderland (Arsenal)



Ray O'Brien (Notts County)



F.A. CUP 5th ROUND SCOTTISH CUP 4th ROUND

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SUBS

Managers

F.A. CUP FINALS (Since the War)

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|----------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|-----|
| 1946 Derby v. Charlton (a.e.t.) | 4-1 | 1963 Man. Utd. v. Leicester | 3-1 |
| 1947 Ch'pton v. Burnley (a.e.t.) | 1-0 | 1964 West Ham. v. Preston | 3-2 |
| 1948 Man. Utd. v. Blackpool | 4-2 | 1965 L'pool v. Leeds (a.e.t.) | 2-1 |
| 1949 Wolves v. Leicester | 3-1 | 1966 Everton v. Sheff. Wed. | 3-2 |
| 1950 Arsenal v. Liverpool | 2-0 | 1967 Spurs v. Chelsea | 2-1 |
| 1951 Newcastle v. Blackpool | 2-0 | 1968 W. Brom. v. Ev'ton (a.e.t.) | 1-0 |
| 1952 Newcastle v. Arsenal | 1-0 | 1969 Man. City v. Leicester | 1-0 |
| 1953 Blackpool v. Bolton | 4-3 | 1970 Chelsea v. Leeds (a.e.t.) | 2-1 |
| 1954 West Brom v. Preston | 3-2 | (after 2-2 a.e.t. at Wembley) | |
| 1955 Newcastle v. Man. City | 3-1 | 1971 Arsenal v. L'pool (a.e.t.) | 2-1 |
| 1956 Man. C. v. Birmingham | 3-1 | 1972 Leeds v. Arsenal | 1-0 |
| 1957 Aston Villa v. Man. Utd. | 2-1 | 1973 Sunderland v. Leeds | 1-0 |
| 1958 Bolton v. Man. Utd. | 2-0 | 1974 Liverpool v. Newcastle | 3-0 |
| 1959 Nottm. For. v. Luton | 2-1 | 1975 West Ham v. Fulham | 2-0 |
| 1960 Wolves v. Blackburn | 3-0 | 1976 S'hampton v. Man. Utd. | 1-0 |
| 1961 Spurs v. Leicester | 2-0 | 1977 Man. Utd. v. Liverpool | 2-1 |
| 1962 Spurs v. Burnley | 3-1 | 1978 Ipswich v. Arsenal | 1-0 |

BBC Radio Sport producer John Helm on the problems of broadcasting soccer . . .

STRIKES...BATS IN BEDROOM...GAOL THREATS...



The BBC team of Peter Jones, Denis Law and Alan Parry during the World Cup.

THE next time you listen to a radio commentary on a European Cup-tie, just ask yourselves how you would go about organising a broadcast yourself.

It's not as easy as you might think.

The BBC has been in the business of bringing you commentaries from all over the world for years — yet they will tell you they're still learning.

Every match brings its own peculiar problems — and no one knows that better than the football producer of BBC Radio's Outside Broadcast department, John Helm.

Over the past eight years Helm has travelled abroad with various soccer clubs, organising soccer commentaries in nearly 20 countries. His most arduous task was setting up coverage of the 1978 World Cup in Argentina.

"Of course, it's got its glamorous side," he says about the job, "and I wouldn't swap with a bricklayer or a bank manager for anything — but I swear I'll scream one day when someone asks 'Had a good holiday?'"

Helm's first task once a European draw has been announced is to discover the kick-off times of matches involving British clubs.

And that's more difficult than it sounds for a start.

Whereas English clubs opt for the standard 7.30 start, times differ on the Continent from country to country.

The starting time is all important for the BBC because they may have to revise schedules to accommodate a European Soccer Special — and don't forget the various time differences.

Once the kick-off time is established the necessary equipment for a broadcast has to be ordered through the host nation's equivalent of the BBC.

Microphones, headphones, tape-recorders etc, are common enough words in our language — but imagine translating them in to Czech or Portuguese! It has to be done.

Helm and his commentary team, drawn from three regulars Peter Jones, Alan Parry and Bryon

Butler, invariably travel with the team they are travelling to watch.

For example, recently Helm and Jones went with West Bromwich Albion to Valencia, Butler and Parry on the same day with Manchester City to Milan.

When City's game was put off for 24 hours, it ultimately meant the two intrepid travellers arriving back in Manchester in the early hours of Friday morning to face a 200 mile drive South to their homes.

They eventually arrived at 7 am — and were back in the office later the same day!

The Valencia game highlighted another problem. Peter Jones found himself doing commentary up in the Gods in a box in line with one goal, giving a very awkward view of the distant pitch.

Helm, too, has his problems as producer.

Normal Service

"The Spanish engineers got their wires crossed, so listeners in England were hearing a Spanish Senorita giving a course in languages while the locals were trying to understand Peter Jones.

"Only after much gesticulating and pigeon-Spanish was normal service resumed.

"In Turkey there were bats flying around the hotel bedroom — which kills the myth about always living in style — in Lisbon the Post Office went on strike because of the workload caused by journalists' calls to England."

The World Cup, though, posed the biggest worries.

"In the River Plate Stadium the commentary position was so cramped I found myself sitting on Denis Law's lap at one stage, and I was kicked in the back so many times I ended up black and blue!"

"We've also had reporters attacked by irate fans, tape recorders stolen, luggage mislaid on the other side of the world, and threats of imprisonment if we said anything against Communism in Czechoslovakia."

Life certainly isn't dull for John Helm and his commentary team wherever they travel.



YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

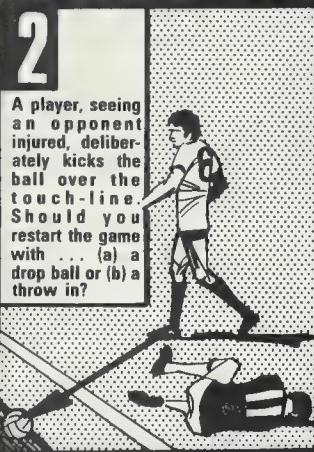
1

A goalkeeper takes a goal-kick and the ball hits an attacking player in the penalty-area. The ball rebounds into the goal. Should you ... (a) award a goal or (b) retake the kick?



2

A player, seeing an opponent injured, deliberately kicks the ball over the touch-line. Should you restart the game with ... (a) a drop ball or (b) a throw-in?



3

A defending captain asks you to defer the indirect free-kick until he has time to organise his defensive 'wall'. You do not agree, but he insists. Should you ... (a) caution the player or (b) wait until the defence is organised?



4



What should you do if a player complains an opponent's studs have cut his leg ... (a) ignore his comments or (b) look at the opponent's boots?

A player's boot has come off in a tackle, but he continues to play without it. What should you do ... (a) stop play and order him to put it on, (b) take no action or (c) wait until the ball is out of play?

ANSWERS

1. Retake the kick (b). 2. Throw-in (d). 3. Caution the player (a). There is far too much encouragement on free-kicks. I am very much in favour of the rugby rule and hope we could bring it into soccer. Encroachment or dissent, move the ball up field ten yards. If it comes inside the penalty-area — award a penalty. 4. Wait until the ball is out of play unless it is dangerous to him and other players (c). 5. Wait until the ball is out of play and then look at the player's boots (d).

BOLTON'S NEW BUY 'GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME'



NEIL McNAB

WHEN Argentinians Ardiles and Villa arrived at White Hart Lane at the beginning of the season, it was the signal for Bolton manager, Ian Greaves, to stake his claim for Spurs' midfield star, Neil McNab.

"He just waited until he saw I wasn't in the first team. Then he swooped," says McNab, who was transferred to Burnden Park for £250,000 in November.

"There were several top teams clamouring for my signature," he reveals, "but I chose Bolton. It was a good offer and I couldn't really turn it down."

"I've found the Burnden Park outfit very friendly, warm-hearted with bags of ambition, and I think it will be successful."

"Ian Greaves is the tops as far as I am concerned. He's the best manager I've ever had. When he paid out all that money for me he showed faith. He's given me a chance and I just want to do well."

"When he signed me he warned it would take a few weeks to settle in before I really played my best football."

"I must admit it is an upheaval changing clubs. But I feel the more I play for Bolton, the better it will be. Slowly, but surely, I'm settling in and, as time goes on, the better I should play."

McNab, 21, a Scottish Under-21 international, has no regrets at leaving Tottenham, yet admits he enjoyed his time there.

"I didn't really want to leave," he says, "but I thought I should have been in the first team. It was just a matter of opinion. All I wanted was to be a first team player in the First Division. If I'd played in the senior side, I would not have left."

"But all that's behind me and I'm enjoying my football at Bolton. We've started to improve now the injury problems have cleared up."

and we're able to field a full strength team. We're on the up and up. Everything seems to be knitting together."

McNab made his debut for Bolton against Coventry at Burnden Park in a 0-0 draw. "Considering I hadn't had a first team game for about a month, I was quite satisfied with my performance," he says. "But my best game for the club was against Q.P.R., at Loftus Road. It was a victory we needed. I can't see us going down."

"There are a lot of talented players here and I've been impressed with the younger element. Frank Worthington? He's outstanding. I don't think there's a better, or more skilful, centre-forward in the country."

Confident

"The fans have been very good to me so far and I appreciate that. They are prepared to give me a chance to settle in. As I've said, with the manager splashing-out all that money on me I want to do well and I'm very confident in the long run I will. I'd like to play for my country, every Scotsman wants that honour."

What difference has Stan Andersen, Ian Greaves's new number two, made after the departure of George Mulhall to Bradford City?

"Since Stan's arrival we've done more running to get ourselves fitter. It can only be a good thing. The fitter you are, the better you are. We've still been doing the ball work, but a bit more running can't really hurt."

"I think I'll settle in this area. I'm just looking forward to doing things with Bolton. We'll get up the table — no problems. As I've said, we're more organised now."

THE £300,000 flop! That was the tag given to Paul Hart soon after Leeds United lured him from Blackpool for a club record fee last March.

But the 25-year-old son of former Manchester City star Johnny Hart is now showing so much consistency at the 'heart' of the Leeds defence he must be the season's most improved First Division player.

The big man could hardly have made a more disastrous start to life in the top flight. In his first ten games he suffered the indignity of giving away two own-goals and two penalty awards.

And Leeds supporters, fed on the commanding performances of Jack Charlton and Gordon McQueen, were quick to condemn the club's new number five as unfit to face his predecessors' boots.

It was a time of crisis for a player desperately striving to live up to a

because Albion are doing so well this season."

Hart is too modest to mention his 34th minute goal in the second replay at Maine Road sent Leeds into the Third Round. Although defence remains his priority, he relishes galloping into the opposition's penalty-area when the opportunity arises — just as Charlton and McQueen did to such telling effect for Leeds.

There have been three managers at Elland Road since Hart moved there just nine months ago — Jimmy Armfield who bought him, Jock Stein, and now Jimmy Adamson. But assistant-manager Maurice Lindley has been best qualified to monitor the big defender's improvement.

"When he first came to us he looked rather clumsy and tended to mis-time his tackles. He was too easily hustled off the ball, but now he has adjusted to the pace of the

£300,000 'FLOP' now Leeds' most improved player

huge price tag which was becoming an increasingly heavy burden. Hart, who cost just £25,000 when Blackpool bought him from Stockport, had scored only one own-goal in his career before joining Leeds.

So why did a player so highly rated at Bloomfield Road find life so tough stepping up a Division? "There is a bigger difference between the pace of football in the First and Second than many people appreciate and it took me a while to adjust," he recalls.

"It wasn't made any easier for me because for much of last season I was playing in midfield for Blackpool, and Leeds wanted me as a specialist defender to take over from Gordon McQueen, who had moved to Manchester United.

"I was trying too hard to impress instead of concentrating on the basics. When things started to go wrong, the pressure on me increased to such an extent I was relieved when the summer break came along and I was able to make a fresh start in August.

"In a way I suppose I became the victim of a massive fee decided by Leeds and Blackpool. I just can't accept any player is worth £300,000, but in the circumstances Leeds had to pay that kind of money. Everyone knew they had the cash after selling Joe Jordan and Gordon McQueen to Manchester United for £850,000, so when Leeds entered the transfer market, fees were inevitably inflated."

Hart puts his enormous improvement down to confidence. "I strung a few good displays together after the season's start and my confidence came flowing back. The turning point was our marathon League Cup Second Round tie with West Bromwich Albion, which needed two replays before we managed to win through. We kept a clean sheet in those three games which, of course, pleased me enormously



First Division, and acquired more aggression he is realising the potential we knew he possessed," said Lindley.

Hart reckons playing alongside so many full internationals at Leeds has helped enormously, and claims he owes a big debt to the coaching staff at Elland Road. But the man who has had the biggest influence on him is fellow central defender Paul Madeley, the player they call the Rolls-Royce among footballers.

"Paul is a great steady influence," says Hart. "He is totally unflappable and has encouraged me so much. I have played against most of the game's top strikers and no longer hold them in awe. They are just other players to me now."

If he maintains his present form, Hart could well attract the attention of England manager Ron Greenwood and become the 12th full international on Leeds' books.

The others are: Tony Currie, Trevor Cherry, Paul Madeley (England), David Harvey, Frank Gray, Eddie Gray, Peter Lorimer, Arthur Graham (Scotland), Byron Stevenson, Brian Flynn, Carl Harris (Wales).



WORLD WIDE

COMPILED BY CHRIS DAVIES

SUPERSTAR CHINAGLIA

I DON'T know for certain, but Georgio Chinaglia of the Cosmos must have been the world's top scorer in 1978, notching 60 goals in 59 games. The American club have pointed out that this equals baseball star Babe Ruth's home-run output for the New York Yankees in 1927.

After the Cosmos had ended their tour of South America — where again attendances were very good — he took part in the American Superstars programme, competing against six baseball players, high-jumper Dwight Stones, Olympic gold medallist athlete John Walker, former PGA golf Champion Lannet Watkins and jockey Angel Cordero.

CHAMPIONS' BOSS IN 'I QUIT' SHOCK

BOCA Juniors have established themselves as South America's top side by winning the Copa Libertadores (their equivalent of the European Cup) for the second successive year. They beat Colombia's Deportivo Cali 4-0 in Buenos Aires after drawing the first-leg 0-0.

Boca's win means Argentinian teams have now won 12 of the 19 editions of the Copa Libertadores, and their repeat victory is another personal triumph for their controversial manager Juan Carlos Lorenzo (above), who previously achieved honours with Lazio in Italy, Atlético Madrid in Spain and San Lorenzo in his native country

Argentina.

But Lorenzo caused a sensation four days before Boca's Libertadores Final when he announced his intention to leave the club at the end of the season.

"The Lorenzo era at Boca is finished," he says. "The players and I have achieved everything we can hope for and perhaps we're too familiar with each other now for us to go any further together. With me they've had three years of hard work and sacrifices, and I honestly don't think I can ask them for any more."

Lorenzo's decision to leave while he's at the top has been signalled by many Argentinian cri-

tics as the beginning of the end for a Boca team that has won success after success with a brand of rugged, no-nonsense football.

Despite doing the Argentinian Double in 1976, the team has never had anyone in the goalscoring charts, and had no individuals outstanding enough to be included in Argentina's World Cup squad.

Lorenzo must therefore take a lot of credit for building an efficient team out of modest material, and if he goes through with his decision to leave Boca, there'll be no shortage of offers for his services.

● Picture shows Lorenzo being carried shoulder-high after the Final.

THE South American Championship will be played again in July, next year. The new regulations propose the competition should be played regularly every four years. There will be three groups with Peru (as holders), Brazil, and Uruguay seeded.

Ex Brazil manager Brandão has signed to manage Portuguesa de Desportos in São Paulo.

There was an attempt on the life of Polish star Lubanski, now playing for Lokeren in Belgium. Two men fired shots and a bullet injured the Lokeren club's Junior team manager Józef Vacenowski. Vacenowski, who received treatment for an injured hand, was mistaken for Lubanski, who had received threatening 'phone calls.'

Angler's Mail

Every Wednesday
18p

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and you'll
get
hooked!



The girl who shows the guys a trick or two

MARIANNE Laurini (right), a shapely Italian-American 16-year-old, has soccer skills which would put most of her male counterparts to shame.

Marianne, from Rochester, New York, demonstrates just what can be achieved through sheer dedication.

Her ball skills are sensational. The ball is glued to her foot, thigh, or head, whichever she chooses. Her record stands at over 2,500 "keep-ups".

Marianne is a fine example of why American women's soccer should be actively encouraged.

Girls, from the ages of seven to 19, are playing the game in just as great a number as boys.

Not too many, though, are playing it quite as well as Marianne, who comes from the Rochester suburb of Gates.

It was while playing for Gates

that Marianne and her team-mates finished as runners-up in a Cup competition incorporating clubs from the East coast of America.

Although she has been kicking a ball since the age of eight, Marianne only started playing football seriously about two years ago.

Most of her spare-time is spent kicking the ball against the nearest available wall.

She moves with the grace of a female Beckenbauer, yet possesses the cobra-like finishing power of SHOOT columnist Andy Gray.

She has a fearsome reputation in the Rochester League, and when we saw Marianne play, her equally feminine opponents had no answer to her goal thrust.

Three goals in the game brought her tally to 43 in 19 games.

Now Marianne wants to go to Italy to play professional women's soccer.



I don't, somehow, think Arminia Bielefeld erected wire fences for spectators' comfort, but this German fan seems to have found the best seat in the ground!



A CHANGE, BUT THE SAME!

FOLLOWING a new Local Government law, where the usage of the words "Malta" and "Nation" or their derivatives is prohibited, the Malta Football Association had to change its name.

Now, it is called Main Football Association, but the abbreviation remains the same—M.F.A.

Still with the sunny Mediterranean island, after Malta's 0-7 defeat in their

away tie against Wales, the impressive record of goals against in away matches reached 81 from 15. This means since Malta's first participation in international commitment for the World Cup or European Championship, they have scored only one goal away!

Strange to say, but it was in their first match in 1962 against Denmark. Since then . . . 80 more goals against!

DON'T BE LATE!

HAVING negotiated new contracts with their Players' Union, the Greek F.A. have laid down 'performance rules'. Being late for training can result in a fine up to £50; missing training can cost up to £100. A yellow card will cost £10, a second one £25 and a third caution £50. Being sent-off will cost £500. And players are banned from playing cards travelling to away matches!

CHAMPIONS BOTTOM OF "CROWD LEAGUE"

AT the halfway mark in the French League, Carlos Bianchi is challenging the top scorers yet again. The 29-year-old Paris St.-Germain striker has been among Europe's top scorers consistently since leaving Argentina, and seems to specialise in narrowly missing the Adidas Golden Shoe award!

This year, he's aiming for the prize again, though at the moment Sochaux midfielder Ivezic has a one-goal lead over him in the French scoring charts. Here's France's top dozen goalscorers:

- 15 Ivezic (Sochaux)
- 14 Bianchi (Paris St.-Germain), Rocheteau (St.-Etienne)
- 12 Marguerite (Nimes)
- 10 Lechantre (Lavel), Olarevic (Lille)
- 9 Pleimelding (Lille), Zenier (Nancy), Onnis (Monaco)
- 8 Cabral (Lille), Emon, Nogues (Monaco), Trossero (Nantes), Rep (Bastia).

Paris St.-Germain continue to be the country's top crowd-pullers despite their unsensational League campaign. In the first half of the season they averaged 25,300, ahead of League leaders Strasbourg (24,434) and St.-Etienne (21,215).

Title challengers Monaco, last season's Champions, are bottom of the attendance League with an average of 5,008, and Olympique Marseille's poor form this term is reflected in a spectacular drop in their average gate to 15,053, compared with last season's 24,885.

THE former Austrian international Gerd Sterk, now at one trying for Wiener Sport Club, is claimed by Austria to hold a world record for having been sent-off six times. Let's hope he is pleased to lose the title soonest!



IT hasn't been a particularly good 1978 for Brazil mid-fielder Zico. He disappointed during the World Cup and missed many Brazilian League games afterwards because of an injury sustained against Poland.

But October 15th was a happy day for Zico. His wife, Sandra, gave birth to their second son. Here is Zico with Sandra and sons Artur junior and Bruno.

RESULTS . . . SCORERS . . . TEAM LINE-UPS

MONDAY, DEC. 18

F.A. CUP

(Second Round replays)

SOUTHEND (1) 1 (Polycarpou)

WATFORD (0) 0 15,463

Southend: Cawston; Stead, Walker, Laverick, Hadley, Moody, Morris, Pountney, Parker, Dudley, Polycarpou.

Watford: Sherwood; Stirk, Harrison, Booth, How, Garner, Pollard, Mercer, Jenkins, Train, Cassells (Joslyn).

WORCESTER (1) 1 (Phelps)

NEWPORT (0) 2 (Pemberton o.g., Goddard)

10,233

Newport: Plumley; Walden, Byrne, Thompson, Davies, Bruton, Oakes, Lowndes (Sinclair), Goddard, Clark, Vaughan.



Bolton's Alan Gowling was on target in their 3-0 victory v. Man United.

TUESDAY, DEC. 19

EUROPEAN SUPER CUP

(second-leg)

LIVERPOOL (1) 2 (Hughes, Fairclough)

ANDERLECHT (0) 1 (Van der Elst) 23,598

Liverpool: Ogrizovic; Neal, Hughes, Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Case, Fairclough, McDermott, Souness.

Anderlecht: Munaron; Van Binst, Van Toorn, Dusbaba, Thissen, Vercauteren, Van der Elst, Geels (Martens), Haan, Coeck, Rensenbrink.



David Fairclough scored against Anderlecht in Liverpool's 2-1 win.

F.A. CUP

(Second Round replays)

COLCHESTER (1) 4 (Lee, Gough, Dowman 2)

LEATHERHEAD (0) 0 3,920

Colchester: Walker; Cook, Packer, Hodge, Wignall, Dowman, Wright, Gough, Dyer, Lee, Allinson.

SCHEFF. WED. (0) 4 (Wylde 2, Lowey, Hornsby pen.)

TRANMERE (0) 0 7,316

Sheff. W.: Turner, Blackhall, Rushbury, Smith, Pickering, Johnson, Wylde, Porterfield, Leman, Lowey, Hornsby.

Tranmere: Johnson: Mathias, Flood, Parry, Cahill, Evans, Craven, Bramhall, Moore, Peplow, McAuley (Postlewaite).

WOKING (0) 3 (Morton, Field, Barrett)

SWANSEA (3) 5 (Curtis 3, Toshack, James R)

A.E.T. 4,500

Swansea: Crudgington; Smith, Bartley, Phillips, Stevenson, Morris, Toshack, James (R), Curtis, Waddle, Callaghan.

Postponed: Bournemouth v. Wimbledon; Rotherham v. Barnsley.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20

Postponed: F.A. Cup Second Round replay: Rotherham v. Barnsley

MAN. C. 0

NOTTM. F. 0

37,012

Man. C: Corrigan; Ranson, Donahie, Fletcher (P), Watson, Power, Channon, Owen, Fletcher (R), Hartford, Barnes.

Nottn. F: Shilton; Anderson, Clark, McGovern, Lloyd, Needham, O'Neill, Gemmill, Birtles (Bowyer), Woodcock, Robertson.

TOTTENHAM (0) 0

ARSENAL (2) 5 (Sunderland 3, Stapleton, Brady)

42,273

Tottenham: Kendall; Naylor, Gorman, Holmes, Lacy, Perryman, Pratt (Jones), Ardiles, Lee, Hoddle, Taylor.

Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Walford, Price, O'Leary, Young, Brady, Sunderland, Stapleton, Gatting, Rix.

Postponed: Liverpool v. Wolves; Norwich v. Q.P.R.

SECOND DIVISION

BRISTOL R. 0

STOKE 0

7,897

Bristol R.: Thomas, Day, Jones, Harding, Taylor, Prince, Petts (White), Williams, Staniforth, Randall, Mabbett.

Stoke: Jones; Marsh, Scott, Kendall, Smith, Doyle, McGroarty, Irvine, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Richardson.

CAMBRIDGE 0

C. PALACE 0

8,081

Cambridge: Webster, Graham, Smith, Stringer, Fallon, Buckley, Christie, Spriggs, Cozens, Finney, Biley.

Palace: Burridge, Hinshelwood, Sansom, Kember, Cannon, Gilbert, Nicholas, Fenwick, Swindlehurst, Elwiss (Hilaire), Walsh.

CARDIFF (1) 2 (Evans, Roberts)

FULHAM (0) 0

5,558

Cardiff: Healey, Thomas, Pethard, Campbell Roberts, Larmour, Attley, Buchanan (Stevens), Evans, Dwyer, Lewis.

Fulham: Peyton, Evans, Strong, Lock, Money, Margrison, Davies, Bullivant, Guthrie, Beck, Greenaway.

CHARLTON (0) 0

BRIGHTON (0) 3 (Poskett 3)

10,135

Charlton: Wood, Shaw, Campbell, Brisley, Shipperley, Berry, Gritt, Robinson, Flanagan, Madden, Peacock (Powell).

Brighton: Moseley, Cattlin, Williams, Horton, Rollings, Lawrenson, Ryan, Poskett, Maybank, Sayer, O'Sullivan.

LEICESTER (0) 1 (Davies)

PRESTON (0) 1 (Bruce)

10,481

Leicester: Wallington, Whitworth, Rose, May, Williams, Duffy, Goodwin, Ridley, Christie, Davies, Henderson.

Preston: Tunks, Taylor, Cameron, Burns, Baxter, O'Riordan, Coleman, Haslegrave, Robinson, Potts, Bruce.

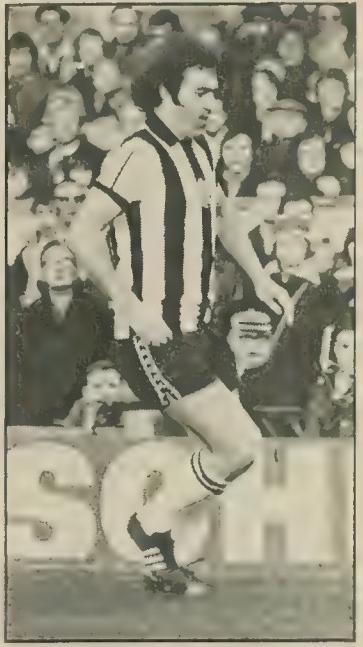
NEWCASTLE (2) 3 (Shoulder, Withe, Cassidy)

BURNLEY (0) 1 (Noble)

23,630

Newcastle: Hardwick, Brownlie, Mitchell, Cassidy, Bird (Barker), Blackley, Shoulder, Martin, Withe, Hibbit, Connolly.

Burnley: Stevenson, Scott, Brennan, Noble, Thompson, Rodaway, Hall, Ingham, Fletcher, Kindon, James (Robinson).



Tommy Cassidy (above) netted against Burnley. Action from Spurs v. Arsenal (below).



Notts Co (1) 1 (O'Brien pen.)
Sunderland (1) 1 (Entwistle) 11,281
 Notts Co: McManus; Richards, O'Brien, Benjamin, Stubbs, Blockley, McCulloch, Masson, Hooks, Mann, Vinter.
 Sunderland: Siddall; Henderson, Bolton, Docherty, Clarke, Elliott, Buckley, Rostron, Entwistle, Lee, Rowell.

Orient (1) 2 (Went, Chiedozie)
Millwall (1) 1 (Chatterton) 6,185
 Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey, Grealish, Gray, Went, Banjo, Kitchen, Mayo, Chiedozie, Coates.
 Millwall: Cuff; Donaldson, Moore, Chambers, Kitchen, Blyth, Towner, Seasman, Mitchell (Mehmet), Walker, Chatterton.

Postponed: Blackburn v Oldham; Luton v West Ham; Wrexham v Sheff. Utd.

THIRD DIVISION

Blackpool (1) 3 (Spence 2, Kellow) 4,106
Chester (0) 0
 Blackpool: Hesford; Malone, Pashley, Thompson, Suddaby, McEwan, Ronson, Kelvin, Jones (Wagstaffe), Spence, Davidson.

Chester: Lloyd; Nickeas, Raynor, Storton, Jeffries, Phillips, Sutcliffe, Livermore, Howat (Burns), Jones, Walker.

Colchester (0) 0
Watford (1) 1 (Jenkins) 5,424
 Colchester: Walker; Cook, Packer, Hodge, Wright, Dowman, Rowles, Gough, Dyer, Lee, Allinson.

Watford: Sherwood; Stirk, Harrison, Booth, Sims, Garner, Joslyn, Mercer, Jenkins, Train, Downes.

Lincoln (0) 0
Chesterfield (0) 1 (Fern) 2,951
 Lincoln: Turner; Guest, Neale, Leigh, Wigington, Cooper, Hobson, Harford, Tynan, Watson, Harding.

Chesterfield: Letheran; Flavell, Burton, Hunter, Cottam, Prophett, Tartt, Kowalski, Fern, Salmons, Cammack.

Mansfield (0) 1 (Green o.g.)
Peterborough (0) 1 (Holman) 3,671
 Mansfield: Arnold, Dawkins, Foster (B), Bird, Saxby, McClelland, Martin, Moss, Syrett, Foster (C), Goodwin.

Peterborough: Waugh; Hindley, Styles, Doyle, Green, Ross, Robertson, Holman, Butlin, Anderson, Robson.

Rotherham (1) 3 (Crawford, Phillips 2)
Tranmere (1) 2 (Peplow, Craven) 3,829
 Rotherham: McAlister; Forrest, Breckin, Stancliffe, Green, Flynn, Finney, Phillips, Gwyther, Crawford, Smith.

Tranmere: Johnson; Mathias, Flood, Parry, Bramhall, Evans, Craven, Palios, Moore, Pepple, McAuley.

Shrewsbury (2) 3 (Atkins, Biggins, Maguire)
Swansea (0) 0 8,567
 Shrewsbury: Wardle; King, Larkin, Turner, Griffin, Keay, Chapman, Atkins (Lindsay), Tong, Biggins, Maguire.

Swansea: Crudgington; Smith, Bartley, Phillips, Stevenson, Charles, Morris (Baker), James, Curtis, Waddle, Callaghan.

Southend (0) 1 (Moody pen.)
Brentford (0) 1 (Phillips) 13,189
 Southend: Cawston; Walker, Hadley, Moody, Stead, Laverick, Dudley, Morris, Pountney, Parker, Polycarpou (Franklin).

Brentford: Bond; Salmon, Tucker, McNichol, Kruse, Graham (J), Shrub, Carlton, Glover, McCulloch, Phillips.

Postponed: Carlisle v Bury; Plymouth v Oxford; Swindon v Exeter; Sheff. Wed v Hull; Walsall v Gillingham.



Alan Curtis (above) of Swansea City, and Hearts' Eamon Bannon (below).



Bobby Fisher played well for Orient v Middlesbrough.

FOURTH DIVISION

ALDERSHOT (0) 3 (Dungworth 2, 1 pen, Jopling)
Stockport (2) 2 (Bradd, Park) 3,115

Aldershot: Johnson; Howitt, Wooler, Dixon, Youlden, (Longhorn), Jopling, Croxby, Brodie, Needham, Dungworth, McGregor.

Stockport: Rogan; Smith, Rutter, Thompson, Park, Edwards (Halford), Summerbee, Armstrong, Bradd, Henson, Lee.

BOURNEMOUTH (1) 1 (Lennard)

WIMBLEDON (2) 2 (Galliers, Briley) 3,922

Bournemouth: Allen; Cunningham, Miller, Impey, Brown (R), Barton, Borthwick, MacDougall, Butler, Showers, Lennard.

Wimbledon: Goddard; Bryant, Haverson, Galliers, Galvin, Eames, Leslie, Briley, Denny, Cork, Cowley.

DARLINGTON (0) 2 (Hague, Walsh)

SUNTHORPE (0) 2 (Kilmore 2) 1,512

Darlington: Burleigh; Nattress, Cochrane, Hague, Craig, Stone, Paterson, Probert (Maitland), Seal, Walsh, Wann.

Sunthorpe: Crawford; O'Donnell, Pilling, Oates, Deere, Czuczman, Grimes, Kilmore, Earl, Keeley, Kavanagh.

GRIMSBY (1) 3 (Cunningham 3, 1 pen.)

YORK (0) 0 4,339

Grimsby: Batch; Moore (D), Moore (K), Waters, Barker, Crombie, Ford, Lester, Mitchell, Cumming, Broily.

York: Brown; Kay, Walsh, Pugh, Faulkner, Clements, Ford, Randall, Wellings, McDonald, Staniforth.

HARTELEPOOL (1) 1 (Goldthorpe)

BARNESLEY (0) 1 (Graham) 5,914

Hartlepool: Richardson; Smith, Gorry, Lawrence, Brooks, Ayre, Linacre, Goldthorpe, Crumplin, Newton, Loadwick.

Barnsley: Springett; Collins, Chambers, Pugh, Saunders, McCarthy, Little, Graham, Riley, Millar, Bell.

PORTSMOUTH (2) 4 (Denyer, Barnard, Hemmerman, Davey)

READING (0) 0 12,541

Portsmouth: Mellor; Ellis, Viney, Denyer, Foster, Wilson, Hemmerman, Lathan (McIlwraith), Davey, Barnard, Pullar.

Reading: Death; Peters, White, Bowman, Hicks, Bennett, Alexander (Kearns), Hetzke, Kearney, Sanchez, Earles.

Postponed: Crewe v Northampton; Halifax v Doncaster; Rochdale v Huddersfield; Torquay v Bradford C.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

Dundee Utd (1) 2 (McNamara o.g., Payne)
Hibs (0) 1 (Bremner) 7,194

Dundee U: McAlpine; Stewart, Stark, Fleming, Hegarty, Narey, Holt, Sturrock, Frye (Doddie), Kirkwood, Payne.

Hibs: McDonald; Kilgour, Duncan, Bremner, Stewart, McNamara, Refvik, MacLeod, Hutchinson, Callachan, Higgins.

Hearts 0
Aberdeen 0 9,500

Hearts: Dunlop; Kidd, Fraser, McNicholl, Jeffries, Craig, Gibson (McQuade), Bannon, O'Connor, Busby, Robertson.

Aberdeen: Clark; Kennedy, McLelland, McMaster, Rougvie, Cooper, Strachan, Archibald (Fleming), Harper, Sullivan (Conidine), Scanlon.

Morton (0) 1 (Ritchie pen.)

Celtic (0) 0 16,000

Morton: Brice; Hayes, Holmes, McLaren, Orr, Rooney, Hutchinson, McNeill, Thomson, Scott, Ritchie.

Celtic: Baines; Filippi, Lynch, Aitken, McDonald, Edvaldsson, Provan, McLeod, McAdam, Burns (Lennox), Conn.

MOTHERWELL (0) 1 (Millar pen.)

5,729

Motherwell: Rennie; McLeod, Wark, Smith, McVie, Stevens, Lindsay, Pettigrew, Clingan, Millar, Wilson (Sommerville).

Partick: Rough; McKinnon, Whittaker, Anderson, McAdam, Marr, Houston, Melrose, O'Hara, Somner, Park.

RANGERS (0) 1 (Johnstone)

ST. MIRRIN (0) 0 18,000

Rangers: McCloy; Miller, Dawson, Jardine, Jackson, Macdonald, McLean, Russell, Johnstone, Watson, Cooper.

St. Mirren: Thompson; Beckett (Young), Munro, Fitzpatrick, Dunlop, Copland, Richardson, Stark, Bone, Abercrombie (Hyslop), McGarvey.

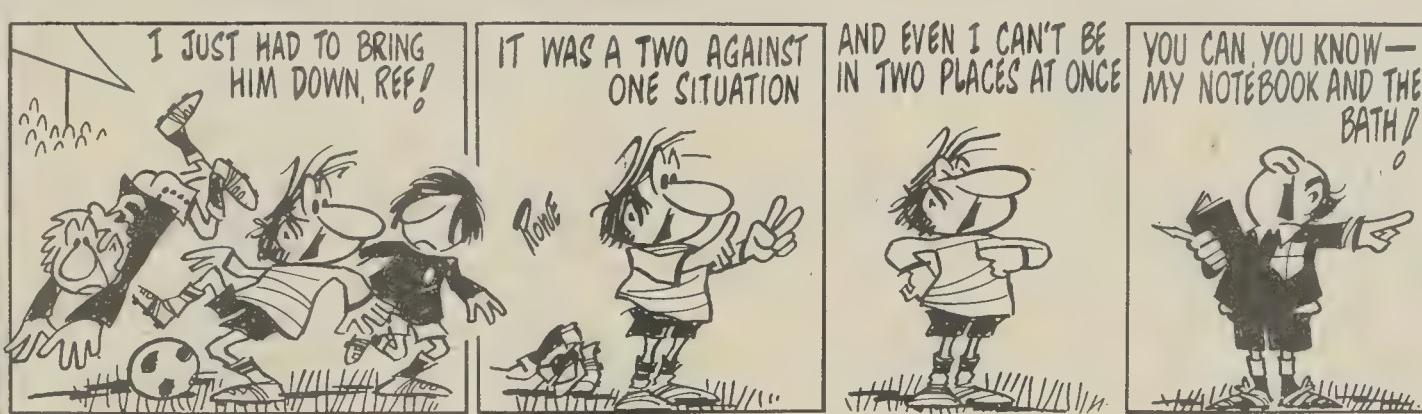
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This week's Star Letter comes from Matti Einio of Finland who wins our Special Prize of £3. He writes:

ENGLISH SOCCER AT ITS BEST

I NOTICED in a recent edition of SHOOT that a reader suggested the English Football League isn't the best in the world. I disagree.

Here, in Finland, we see at least ten live matches screened from England during a season.

I must say we've been presented with soccer at its very best so far! As we seldom get bumper gates here in Finland, it's marvellous to see huge crowds urging their teams on to play that fast, competitive kind of football that is a trademark of British soccer.

There have been cries all over Britain for League teams to adopt a more Continental, slower approach to the game.

But it's the fierce action and speed which makes British soccer so popular around the world.

It can compete with Europe's best and I really see no reason for the English to sacrifice entertainment and popularity in favour of dreary build-ups.

● I agree with you Matti. With Nottingham Forest, West Brom, Manchester City, Ipswich and Glasgow Rangers still carrying the flag in Europe, we're still a major force in world football.

Dismal Derby

A LOYAL Derby County supporter, I am absolutely fed up with the club and manager Tommy Docherty. And I'm sure many other fans feel the same way. My main complaint is the sale of the club's stars such as Colin Todd, Leighton James, Archie Gemmill and the handling of the Charlie George affair.

And players Terry Curran and Gerry Ryan, who were just settling in, were suddenly transferred to another club.

Who will be next to go? David Langan, Gordon Hill or Roy McFarland?

The club is left with just one star, Gerry Daly, and my advice to him

is "Get out. It's a sinking ship."

NICKY R. HAWKINS,

OXFORD.

● 1978 certainly wasn't a very good year for The Rams, or The Doc. But time will tell whether his rebuilding plans are the right ones to restore the club to the top bracket in the First Division.

Unpredictable game

IT'S said football is a constantly changing game and we've had the perfect example of it this season.

Can you imagine the reaction, a year ago, if people had been told that there would be four Argentinians, a Pole, a Yugoslav and a Dutchman playing in the Football League?

Anyone suggesting it would have been laughed at, which highlights the unpredictability of soccer.

RICHARD OATES,
SHEFFIELD.

● By January, 1980, no doubt there will be even more foreigners in the League. One Argentinian, who I'm sure would do well in England, is their World Cup keeper Fillol, who has been in top form ever since.

Keep snow off the pitch

ICAN'T understand why clubs are prepared to splash-out grossly

over-inflated transfer fees for players, when matches are postponed because of the bad weather and revenue is lost.

Surely it's about time more top clubs invested their money in ensuring pitches are kept reasonably free of snow and ice.

Arsenal have their under-soil heating, Leicester have their hot-air balloon. Why haven't other clubs taken similar action?

ANTHONY JONES,
LONDON, N1.

● I feel some clubs don't really want to play during the bad weather, Anthony. They prefer to wait until conditions improve. They attract bigger gates that way.

Not Gillies

IN your edition of SHOOT dated 13th January, 1979, I was shocked to see that on page 12 you have stated the Bristol City player as Don Gillies. This, in fact is incorrect as the photograph is of Clive Whitehead.

As a Bristol City supporter for several years I was appalled at a magazine of your standing making such an error.

STEPHEN FIVASH,
MELKSHAM.

● We're also upset Stephen at making such a bad mistake. We take great care to check all our material, but somehow we slipped up over the photo identification. We apologise to all readers, and both players, and pledge to publish a photo of Don Gillies before the end of the season.

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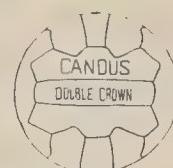
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BIG MATCH CROSSTALK

*between defenders
ALLY ROBERTSON of Albion
and Derby's STEVE BUCKLEY*

ROBERTSON: The first thing to get straight about the prospect of playing Derby is that you never really know what to expect from Tommy Docherty's team! It may sound a little incredible in this day and age of tactics but that is certainly the case — especially this season.

BUCKLEY: Yes, that's true. Albion must have fancied their chances when we clashed at the Baseball Ground in September. You had knocked us out of the F.A. Cup last season with a thrilling 3-2 win in the Fifth Round. But this time we got revenge by the same margin and became the first club to beat Albion away from home this season.

ROBERTSON: We learned a few lessons from that performance. We made a couple of terrible defensive errors that were completely out of character for us and paid the penalty. It proves one thing — you just can't afford to relax your grip for one second. And it's something we don't need reminding.

BUCKLEY: It looks as if we did Albion a favour because they have taken the hint ever since and injected some tremendous consistency into an overall pattern of positive and entertaining football that has been the talk of the game.

ROBERTSON: Things may have worked well for us but it seems obvious The Doc is still in the midst of rebuilding a Derby side that is gradually taking shape under his control. I've got a lot of time for Tommy. He's a real character and there's never a dull moment when he's around.

BUCKLEY: The interesting thing is a comparison of rival managers because it seems Ron Atkinson is also an extrovert and his bubbling enthusiasm for the job is reflected in the style of football West Brom have produced this season — at home and abroad.

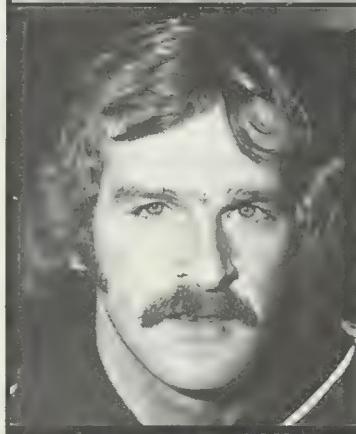
ROBERTSON: Some people say The Doc chops and changes too often. He arrives at every club and immediately gets the broom out and virtually sweeps the place clean. That may be true to an extent but it certainly worked like a dream at Manchester United where he had a fine F.A. Cup-winning side.

BUCKLEY: I always believed a manager mirrors his own side. Happy Harry Haslam was a typical example when I was at Luton, and now West Brom have got so many good things going for them at the moment. Black stars like strikers Laurie Cunningham and Cyrille Regis plus right-back Brendan Batson are always in the spotlight but there's a lot more to it than that.

ROBERTSON: I feel Derby have had problems trying to settle into their stride. Injuries haven't helped and one of their biggest disappointments could have been the fact centre-half Roy McFarland has been unable to establish a regular anchor role in the side. I've watched McFarland carefully over the years, trying to pick up tips.



**West Brom v. Derby County
Saturday, January 20th, 1979**



ALLY ROBERTSON

He's a tremendous player, having a great influence on the side.

BUCKLEY: An important key to every side is organisation. That's something West Brom have in the shape of central defender John Wile and of course you, Alistair. I'm convinced Wile has blossomed in the last two or three years to take a real skipper's role and lead by example. People always talk about Albion as an attacking side but if you are not safe at the back then you're in big trouble.

ROBERTSON: The Doc has gambled on selling quality players this season, like England defender Colin Todd and striker Charlie George — one of the best in the

business. Not many managers in the game would have been bold enough to do that sort of transfer dealing but then that's The Doc in his attempt to get the cash to rebuild. Ironically, we were one of the sides who wanted George before he went to Southampton.

BUCKLEY: Albion's all-round ability to step up the chase for major honours this season has I'm sure been helped with the experience of playing in Europe where they have reached the Quarter-Finals of the U.E.F.A. Cup. The performance in both legs against Spanish club Valencia was surely good enough to prove their potential to anyone — if ever that was needed. They certainly stopped world class stars Mario Kempes and Rainer Bonhof in their talented tracks.

ROBERTSON: That may be so but you are only as good as your last result. Derby have some dangerous players, plus the red-hot motivation of Docherty. As a defender, I don't need reminding about winger Gordon Hill — both in his ability to create chances and finish — plus one of this season's newcomers John Duncan. He scored against us at the Baseball Ground and the memory of that goal still sticks in our throats.

BUCKLEY: I don't suppose the experts will give us much chance



STEVE BUCKLEY

in this Midlands derby, against the kind of form West Brom have shown since September. But that's just the sort of challenge we relish and love to overcome.

ROBERTSON: We've got a score to settle. We've pushed ourselves into a position in the table with everything to go for and we don't intend to ruin a lot of hard work. It wasn't that long ago everyone had settled on a one horse title race with Liverpool out in front. Now they know different.

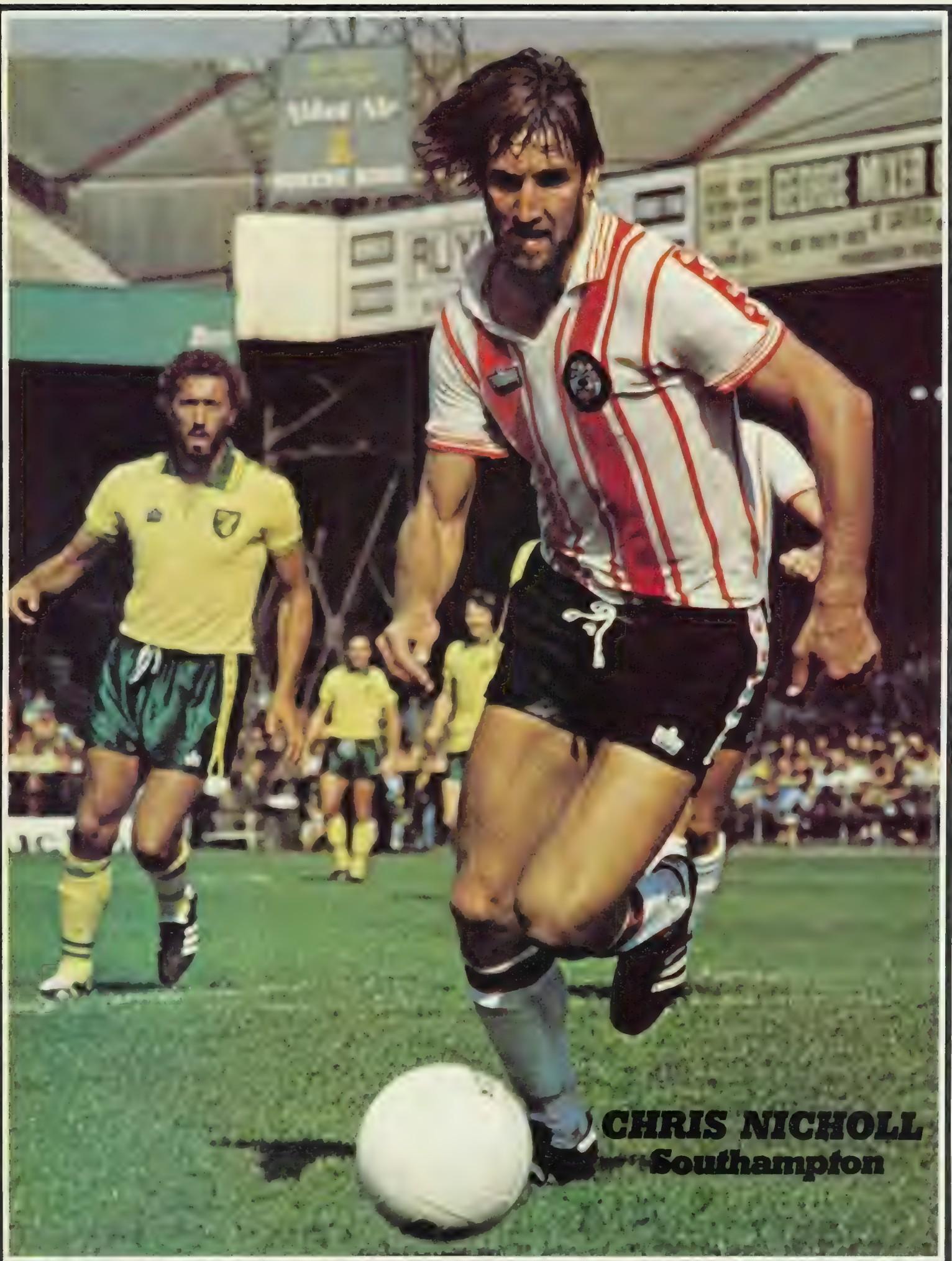
BUCKLEY: All I can say is it would be marvellous to become the first club this season to complete the double over West Brom. Now that would be something!

FOCUS ON **KEVIN BOND**

Norwich City

FULL NAME: Kevin John Bond
BIRTHPLACE: West Ham, East London
BIRTHDATE: 22nd June, 1957
HEIGHT: 6ft 2ins
WEIGHT: 12st 12lbs
PREVIOUS CLUB: Bournemouth
MARRIED: No
CAR: MGB GT
FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Trevor Brooking and Sandro Mazzola
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Brazil
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT:
They're all hard
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: My debut against Aston Villa, 23rd April, 1976
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing 1-0 to Manchester United at Old Trafford last season
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Barbados
FAVOURITE FOOD: My Mum's spaghetti
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Tennis and nice cars
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Losing at anything
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: Happy Days and sports programmes
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Rod Stewart and mostly anything
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Clint Eastwood and Lesley Ann Down
BEST FRIEND: Dave Matthews, business partner
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My father
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Matches being called-off
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: None
PERSONAL AMBITION: To make a lot of money and to be happy
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To play regularly in the First Division
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? No idea
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Champion jockey Lester Piggott





CHRIS NICHOLL
Southampton

SHOOT!

ALDERSHOT'S TOM McANEARNEY



SEVEN years in a job may not qualify most people for a gold watch. But in the hurly-burly world of the Fourth Division with management changes coming almost monthly, it merits a champagne celebration.

Tom McAnearney has been the man in charge at Aldershot since 1972. In that time the club has gone up a Division and back down

gradually we are building this club into something good.

"But it takes time to do it properly. Too many directors in football don't understand that. They want success overnight without working for it, and when they don't get it the manager is the easiest person to blame."

Aldershot's chairman, Reg Driver, has been the man at the top

straight with me."

Aldershot, as McAnearney says, are building for success the hard way.

"It would be easy to get into debt, to gamble on spending a lot of money trying to buy success. But it wouldn't work."

"Any success would only be short term, because unless we build a sound base we couldn't

—'Never afraid for my future'

again — but without any threat to his position.

It has also been a period in which there have been more than 500 managerial changes, and only three other managers went into 1979 doing the same jobs as they were in 1972 — Alan Dicks at Bristol City, Bobby Robson at Ipswich and Jimmy Frizzell at Oldham.

What is the secret of McAnearney, the great survivor? "A good board and a fair-minded chairman," he explains without any hesitation.

"They've enough vision to realise you can't do a job at a club like this in a short time. We've ideas and ambition, but we also have a budget. We work closely to it, and

at the Recreation Ground throughout McAnearney's reign, and has always backed him.

Aldershot were promoted to the Third Division in their first season under Mac, as the locals call him, but drifted back down to the Fourth Division in 1976.

Even then, McAnearney didn't fear for his job. "I think the directors understood my problems," he explains. "I had faith in them, and they kept faith with me.

"I can honestly say I was never once afraid for my future. In a lot of clubs it is well known you can't trust anyone. Monday's vote of confidence is too often the prelude to a sacking on Tuesday. This board has always been very

support the debts for any length of time. In no time the club could be broke and closed down.

"Our first priority is to make sure the town of Aldershot has a club, and then to make it successful."

But if Aldershot are keeping faith with McAnearney, then it is a two-way arrangement.

"I've never really seriously thought about leaving," he says. "Perhaps once or twice I might have considered going for other jobs, but I'm quite involved with one I'm doing here."

"It's a family club, friendly place to work, and I feel responsible towards the directors, players and fans."

CARDIFF CITY'S RICHIE MORGAN

THREE is no tougher job in football: the popular player asked to step out of the dressing-room and take over a club deep in trouble. That is the mountain of a task facing Cardiff City's Richie Morgan.

Jimmy Andrews, the man who had guided the premier club of Welsh football through so many troubled seasons, was fired — with a great deal of regret because he had toiled non-stop for one desperate season after another. The directors did not have anyone

time public relations officer, Morgan served the club for every week of his 14 years in professional football. Like the tousle-haired youngster he once played alongside for Cardiff Central Y.M.C.A. — Yorath — Cardiff was the club he followed from the terraces as a schoolboy. Now it is in his hands.

His first battle was that move away from the players he had trained and played with and, overnight, to assume the status and authority of manager.

way to make it work.

"When the directors offered me the job after the month of 'caretaker' work, I was sure in my own mind I could handle the difficulties of switching from dressing-room to manager's office. If I had thought any other way, I would not have accepted. It would have been quite pointless taking on the job without being certain I could work with the players."

Morgan showed his mettle from the first day that he was given

—'Must be honest with my players'

else in mind ... so club captain Richie Morgan was asked to take over as a caretaker.

For a month, he then lived in limbo. First it was Terry Yorath coming back to take charge of his hometown club; then the job was offered to Colin Addison who has achieved a 'miracle worker' reputation during his spells with nearby Hereford United and Newport County; the name of former skipper Mike England kept cropping up; Gordon Banks emerged as a 'Mr X' candidate; there was talk of trying to tempt former Wales international Alan Durban from his rebuilding of Stoke City. At the end of the day, the job stayed with Morgan.

As player, club captain and part-

"Of course, there has to be a measure of resentment," he concedes. "Can anyone name me a boss in any walk of life who does not experience this change of attitude when he receives promotion? It is human nature.

"But let's understand this: I've been a player a long time. I may have left one part of my life behind me by moving up the corridor but there is no way I am going to turn round and treat players as anything but responsible human beings.

"Life changed for me in the stretch of one day. I resolved to tackle this problem by being totally honest with each player as an individual: then and with all of them as a group. It was the only

outright authority. He instructed every player to wear jackets, shirts and ties when travelling to games or reporting to the ground for home matches.

"In itself, it is just a small matter: but it is important in terms of discipline and personal pride. I have this belief you can only give of your best if you look and feel at your best. Jeans and open neck shirts are okay for training days but not when players are representing this club in Second Division or Combination games."

By the same token, he made it compulsory for reserve players to watch all first team home matches. "If you are not playing yourselves, you must be here," he stated. "That is the only way you



can learn and form an accurate picture of what is expected of you in first team terms — because, unless you have ambition, there is just no place for you in the club."

Morgan explains: "The only way a young player can fully appreciate the demands of the game is to watch the man doing his job in the League side."

Morgan, at 32 has not fallen into the trap of indulging in self importance. Even the apprentices knock on his door and say 'Richie, can I do this ... etc.'

"That is one of the things it would be wrong to change in my position. Look, they don't come bursting in, they knock. They may call me 'Richie' but they say it with respect. That's all I want."

'Critics only remember Alan's 'rough' games'

SCOTLAND's international team will walk a soccer tight-rope again when they face Belgium in the European Championship match at Hampden on Wednesday, February 7th.

Obviously I don't need to remind anyone just how vital this game is. I have said all along that the country to succeed in this section will be the one that makes the fewest mistakes at home and picks up a valuable point or two away.

So far Scotland have won their only game at Hampden — a 3-2 victory over Norway — and have lost their two away games in Austria (3-2) and Portugal (1-0).

At the time of writing I do not know whether or not I figure in Jock Stein's plans, but everyone knows I will be willing to play in Timbucktoo tomorrow if the international manager gave me the call.

Okay, I know I have had a slow start to the season, but I feel I have been coming back to something like my old form in recent games. I scored four goals in our 5-3 win over Hearts and then scored the only goal of the game against St. Mirren, at Ibrox. Five goals in two games ... can't be bad.

However, just look at the competition I face in trying to win that number nine shirt.

Andy Gray played against Norway and then when he was injured Joe Jordan faced the Portuguese. And then when Jordan came off in Lisbon, Coventry's Ian Wallace took his place. That is a trio of immense power and talent.

In fact, I thought little Ian Wallace scored one of the best goals of 1978 when I saw him in action on television against Everton, at Highfield Road.

He got on the end of a long through ball, shrugged-off a tackle from Colin Todd, swivelled from about 18 yards out, and thundered an unstoppable drive high into the roof of the net past the helpless George Wood.

And talking about Wood brings me to the Scottish goalkeeper's spot. Wood has been tipped as a possible successor to Alan Rough, but I still think the big Partick Thistle personality is one of the best in the business.

He came in for criticism recently from Malcolm Allison on television, but it seems that most of the so-called "experts" only



Rough collects the ball safely during a Premier Division clash.



DEREK JOHNSTONE

remember Alan's bad days and conveniently forget his better performances.

In our first two Premier Division games this season against the Firhill team we have failed to score one goal. Rough has been positively brilliant in both matches.

Alan will not let us down if he plays against Belgium, at Hampden.

Anyhow, I'll be talking about the game in more detail in two weeks' time.

I hope the conditions for the big match are favourable because recent weather in Scotland has created chaos up and down the country.

That brings us to the argument of whether or not there should be a winter break from soccer as there is in other countries.

Without going into the subject too deeply I would say that a shutdown in the Winter would obviously mean more fixtures in the

Summer. We players are just as human as anyone else and also like a holiday in the sun. A break in the Summer is our only chance to put our feet up for a fortnight or two.

I welcome moves to give fans an early warning of postponements in bad weather. There is nothing more infuriating than travelling a long distance only to discover the game has been called off an hour before the kick-off.

TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK

NOTTINGHAM Forest ARE worthy Champions — no doubt about that. And they could well hang on to their title this season, despite the ever-growing threat from Liverpool, Everton and West Brom.

No one gave Forest much chance of success — myself included — when they managed to win promotion by the skin of Brian Clough's teeth in 1976-77.

The team that came up behind Wolves and Chelsea were a collection of soccer misfits and average players, moulded into a potentially super side by Brian Clough and Peter Taylor.

Players such as John McGovern, John O'Hare, Tony Woodcock, John Robertson, Martin O'Neill, Frank Clark and Ian Bowyer had been either discarded by other clubs or rated as "no-hoppers" by the experts and soccer-writers.

"Forest won promotion on a prayer and the backs of Clough and Taylor," said a friend at the time.

McGovern and O'Hare came in from some terrible stick from the Leeds fans when Cloughie brought them to Elland Road from Derby during his brief reign.

Full-back Frank Clark was released by Newcastle after something like 400 first team appearances and seemed destined to play out the remainder of his career in the lower Divisions or even non-League football.

But Clough signed him and now Frank is a vital member of the Forest Furies.

'Forest won't as long as'

So is Larry Lloyd, often underrated during his Liverpool and Coventry days.

Tony Woodcock and John Robertson are now full internationals for England and Scotland respectively. In fact, I rate Robertson as the best winger in Britain at the moment by a long chalk.

Looking at Forest a year or so ago, I suppose you can understand the doubt in some minds about their future in the First Division.

The team were carried along on a wave of enthusiasm and confidence that took the other clubs by surprise.

Forest still have the same enthusiasm, but now possess the class and skill to go with it.

They've one of the best 'keepers in the world in Peter Shilton, and exceptional class in Archie Gemmill, Kenny Burns, Garry Birtles and Viv Anderson.

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All records are made to be broken, but I can't see Forest's tremendous achievement being topped for a very, very long time.

Liverpool ended Forest's run this season with that 2-0 win at Anfield on December 9th.

As successful as Forest are at present, I don't believe they will match Liverpool's fantastic achievements and high level of consistency over the past ten years.

Their main problem is money. Liverpool have drawn large crowds at Anfield for more than a decade and this has given the club vast resources to buy top class talent when necessary.

True Forest have spent heavily on Shilton and Burns, and Cloughie was in a position to splash out another £400,000 on Charlie George recently, but I still maintain they lack solid financial backing.

For some reason Forest just don't attract the crowds they deserve. Cloughie has almost had to threaten their fans to fill the City Ground.

And will Forest remain a force if Clough and Taylor move on? I don't think so.

Of course, they could stay at the club for the remainder of their careers, but such is Clough's character and personality he'll probably want a new mountain to climb when he feels he's achieved all he can at Forest.

Liverpool's situation is unique. If Bob Paisley goes they'll probably recruit from within the club. Just as they did when Bob replaced Bill

LEFT . . . Brian Clough can "motivate" players.
BELOW . . . Scottish international John Robertson, the "best" winger in Britain.



Shankly a few years ago.

Keeping the job in the Liverpool family ensures the style, policy and character of the club remains the same.

Whatever you think of Brian Clough as a person you must admire him as a manager.

Sure he's an extrovert . . . sure he enjoys making outrageous statements . . . sure he's controversial. But then so are most highly-talented people.

Apart from his vast knowledge of

my soccer world
GORDON MCQUEEN



players and ensure they get the rewards success deserves.

As I've said before, I wish Leeds had given Cloughie the chance to prove himself a worthy successor to Revie. Had they done so, they might be where Forest are today.

I'll get the chance to have a few words with Brian this Saturday (January 20th) when Manchester United visit the City Ground.

We drew 1-1 with Forest at Old Trafford last September, when Shilton saved what looked a certain "winner" from my header in the last minute.

To be honest, a United victory would have cheated Forest out of the point they deserved on the day. They played very well.

Since Christmas, United's inconsistent form prevents me from making a firm forecast of Saturday's result.

I'll console myself with the fact that we are so unpredictable anything can happen.

Forest are due for a jolt at home and United are just the team to provide it. Let's hope so anyway.

Back in two weeks . . .

THREE was once a popular belief that if either Celtic or Rangers rejected a player it was the end of his career. The Old Firm, those mighty giants who dominate Scottish soccer, make sure they almost always get the pick of the crop, but they have been known to let a couple slip through even their well-cast nets.

There are players performing in Scottish soccer at this moment who bring joy to the fans and artistry to the game. They all have one thing in common: they are Celtic and Rangers rejects.

It is possible to compile TWO entire teams of former Celtic and Rangers players and there is little doubt that both sides could probably do well even in the hectic, frantic, tense atmosphere of the Premier Division where a lot of the rejects are already proving their worth.

Take the goalkeeper's position for a start. Both Celtic and Rangers have had problems over this department in recent years. Celtic



Donald Hunter helped St. Mirren to promotion two years ago.

McCulloch on loan from Kilmarnock. When the Rugby Park club sold Jim Stewart to Middlesbrough they brought McCulloch back to their first team.

Ferguson didn't have the opportunity to worry too much about the situation because he was sacked by St. Mirren, and the following day took over as manager of Aberdeen!

Jim Clunie inherited the problem. Donald Hunter returned to Ibrox where he was freed. Ally Hunter quit the game altogether and the Saints' hoodoo spot was finally filled by Partick Thistle reserve Billy Thomson.

Donald Hunter must have been slightly bewildered by all of this, but another ex-Ranger, Davy Wilson, had been sufficiently impressed by the keeper to offer him a first team place at Dumbarton.

Now there is no looking back for Hunter, who is keeping Laurie Williams in the reserves. And that is no mean feat when you consider

brave and never shirks a tackle. He can also set up good attacking moves with his intelligent use of the long ball. He cost Dumbarton a modest £15,000 when they signed him two years ago.

McNamara went to Hibs in the swap deal that took Pat Stanton, now the Aberdeen assistant-manager, to Parkhead. McNamara didn't hit it off at Easter Road right away, but last season he was named as Hibs' 'Player of the Year' and his play this season has been brilliant.

One club to find that to their cost was . . . Celtic! When Hibs beat them 1-0 at Parkhead earlier in the season McNamara was the Man-of-the-Match as he dominated his back-four and hardly allowed the Celtic players to get a look or a shot at Mike MacDonald.

There is a wealth of experience, too, in former Rangers defenders Ian MacDougall (Dundee), Barry Evans (Morton), Rikki Fleming (Hibs) and Iain Munro (St. Mirren). MacDougall, a hard-tackling

'OLD FIRM' REJECTS WHO'VE MADE GOOD.



Jack McNamara of Hibs was involved in a swap deal when he was signed from Celtic.

Williams was interesting Welsh manager Mike Smith only last season with a view to giving him a Welsh cap.

Queen of the South did good business when they signed Tommy O'Hara shortly after he had been freed by the Parkhead club. They gave the player a settled position in their defence and he, too, has improved so much he received a lucrative contract from a North American League club last season.

Aberdeen were linked with him two seasons ago, but apparently they were told it would take something like £60,000 to persuade the Palmerston club into parting with their raiding left-back.

On the right, the position of the ex-Celtic line-up could be taken by Kilmarnock's versatile Frank Welsh, who was freed three years ago. Welsh, who first made his name as a central-defender, has now been given experience of several positions in the back-four and there has been a marked improvement in his play.

Completing the back-four would be Pat McCluskey, of Dumbarton, and Jackie McNamara, of Hibs, two good readers of play and two defenders of high quality. Former Scottish Under-23 cap McCluskey may not be the most mobile sweeper in the country, but he is

player, made his breakthrough at Ibrox in a midfield role, but was found to be surplus to Rangers' requirements last season and was on the move to Dens Park for £25,000. He could soon be back at Ibrox, though . . . as a promotion-winning Dundee player next season.

Munro also cost £25,000 to shift from Ibrox. Ex-St. Mirren manager Alex Ferguson thought he was well worth that fee last season when he brought him back to Paisley for his second spell. Munro is a clever player who lets his head do most of his work.

He refuses to charge in and be caught out by some swift winger. And Munro, a former forward himself, adds a dash of colour to the sometimes grey soccer scene when he thrusts forward into attack.

Morton's Barry Evans and Hibs' Rikki Fleming also impress. Both were freed by Rangers, but just one showing of the current form is enough to convince soccer judges



have tried a succession of men in that role, searching for a successor to Ronnie Simpson.

Peter Latchford looked as though he had provided the answer with some superb displays last season and at the start of the current term, but even he lost form and Roy Baines was promoted from the reserves. Stewart Kennedy and Peter McCloy have fought it out for the number one jersey at Ibrox as they try to settle their personal argument.

However, manager Benny Rooney is quite content with the man he has in charge at Morton . . . ex-Celtic 'keeper Denis Connaghan.

Extrovert Connaghan, one of the first Britons to sample soccer in the United States during the Sixties, had brief spells with both Ayr United and Clydebank after being freed by Celtic two years ago, but he has settled in well at Cappielow and helped them to achieve promotion to the Premier Division last season.

Dumbarton, trying to fight their way into the promotion struggle in the First Division, rely heavily on goalkeeper Donald Hunter, a Rangers reject at the end of the season.

Hunter must be wondering what he has to do to gain a permanent place in a Premier Division side. He was on loan to St. Mirren two years ago and helped them climb into the Top Ten.

He was playing so well at one point there was talk of Rangers recalling him to Ibrox, but last season things went drastically wrong for the well-built number one for a variety of reasons.

Former Love Street manager Alex Ferguson let it be known he wasn't too happy about his goalkeeper's position. He dropped Hunter and signed his namesake, Ally, on a free transfer from Motherwell.

Ally didn't provide the answer, either, and he was on the way out when Ferguson picked up Alan



LEFT . . . Partick brought Alex O'Hara from Rangers last season.
ABOVE . . . Left-winger at Hearts is former Celt, Bobby Prentice.
BELOW . . . Brian McLaughlin, Ayr's midfielder enjoys having a go at goal.



they are hardly second-rate players.

Meanwhile, back at the ex-Celts, how about this for a double-act in the middle of the pitch — Andy Ritchie, of Morton, and Brian McLaughlin, of Ayr United?

Ritchie is rated in the £100,000-plus bracket by the Cappielow club, yet he didn't cost them a single new pence when he joined them. He arrived at Morton as makeweight in a deal that took their 'keeper Roy Baines to Parkhead. Morton also received £15,000 in cash. A bargain.

The Morton star has often been criticised for being lazy, but even if he doesn't charge all over the pitch like a tornado, he still scores goals of breathtaking beauty.

McLaughlin, another midfielder, likes nothing more than to have a go at goal from any range or angle. He joined Ayr last season along with £10,000 to take the Somerset Park club's versatile Joe Filippi to Parkhead.

Getting back to the ex-Ibrox men, they could provide a talented threesome in their midfield with Johnny Hamilton (St. Johnstone), Alex O'Hara (Partick Thistle) and Davie Smith (Berwick Rangers) combining power, pace and precision.

Not a bad looking midfield, that, and the only one who cost a transfer fee was O'Hara. Firhill manager Bertie Auld signed him for £25,000 last season and he looks like being a bargain buy.

The potential of the front foursome in the former Parkhead line-up is quite astounding. They could field Willie Temperley (Hibs) on the right flank with his Edinburgh rival Bobby Prentice (Hearts) on the left.

Capitalising on their openings could be Jimmy Bone (St. Mirren) and Paul Wilson (Motherwell) — two prolific goalscorers over their years in first class football.

Temperley and Prentice left Parkhead on free transfers, but Wilson cost Motherwell £60,000 this term, while Bone was sold to Arbroath for £12,000 three seasons ago before joining St. Mirren last year for £30,000.

And what about the firing squad among ex-Rangers players? There must be a place for former favourite Willie Henderson, now of Airdrie, on the right-wing and two players who can frighten any rearguard when they get into their stride are Ally Scott (Morton) and Graham Fyfe (Dumbarton).

Henderson was freed eight seasons ago and went to Sheffield Wednesday before trying his luck in Hong Kong with, believe it or not, Hong Kong Rangers. Now Henderson is back in Scotland with Airdrie, the club for which he used to be a ball-boy!

Swap Deal

Fyfe and Scott left Ibrox at the same time when they arrived at Hibs in a swap deal that took Iain Munro to Rangers. Last season Scott was freed and joined the Cappielow side while Fyfe was sold for a modest fee to Dumbarton.

Let's have a quick look at those teams again. EX-CELTICS: (4-2-4): Connaghan (Morton), Welsh (Kilmarnock), McCluskey (Dumbarton), McNamara (Hibs), O'Hara (Queen of the South), Ritchie (Morton), McLaughlin (Ayr United), Temperley (Hibs), Wilson (Motherwell), Bone (St. Mirren) and Prentice (Hearts).

EX-RANGERS: (4-3-3): Hunter (Dumbarton), MacDougall (Dundee), Evans (Morton), Fleming (Hibs), Munro (St. Mirren), Hamilton (St. Johnstone), O'Hara (Partick), Smith (Berwick Rangers), Henderson (Airdrie), Scott (Morton) and Fyfe (Dumbarton).

And there would be no shortage of managers, either. Who could be boss of the ex-Celts? Bertie Auld (Partick Thistle), Benny Rooney (Morton) and Tommy Gemmell (Dundee) would surely be in the running.

The manager of the ex-Ibrox line-up? Alex Ferguson (Aberdeen), Bobby Watson (Airdrie), Craig Brown (Clyde) and Davy Wilson (Dumbarton) could fight it out for that job.

Anyway, it certainly goes to demonstrate that when the Old Firm show you the door it is not the end of your soccer career. In fact, it could be the opening to a whole new world . . .

IN NEXT WEEK'S SHOOT..

COLOUR: Final part of our F.A. Cup Wallchart, Graeme Souness (Liverpool), Tommy Hutchison (Coventry), Steve Wicks (Chelsea). Focus on Kazimierz Deyna (Man. City and Poland) and Preston team group.



FEATURES: Players talk about their F.A. Cup Fourth Round ties. SHOOT! previews the Scottish Third Round. We select a First Division team based on current form + Our side of Newcastle post-War "Greats" + A list of players who've scored against their former clubs this season + Club Spotlight on Preston. Also: Dave Sexton (Man. United manager) + Sepp Maier (West Germany's popular 'keeper) + Malcolm Macdonald (Arsenal) and John Richards (above, Wolves) fighting back from injury + Trevor Francis (Birmingham City). In addition to this all-star programme, all your usual favourites, such as News Desk, World Wide, star-writers Ray Clemence, Ray Wilkins, Gordon Hill and Danny McGrain, Quiz Time, Goal-Lines, Ask The Expert, Football Funnies and You Are The Ref.

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'Forgotten man' PHIL NEAL insists 'I'm not downhearted'

EVERYONE was so excited about Viv Anderson becoming the first black footballer to play for England that the man he replaced didn't get a mention.

Liverpool's Phil Neal was the unlucky player who sat shivering under a sleeping bag on the Wembley bench while Anderson made history in his number two shirt.

Says Neal: "You wouldn't have thought two games ago I was the player who scored the winning goal for England against Denmark would you?"

"I get on great with Viv. He impressed me no end on and off the field and we even played table tennis together at the team's hotel."

"But to be honest, I was sick about all the publicity surrounding him before the match. There was so much talk I knew I would be losing my place before I even left home to join the squad."

"From the mention I got, you would have thought I was dead and buried. But I'm not downhearted about it."

"Even sitting on the bench at Wembley is better than sitting in the stands. I'm still in the England

squad and as far as I'm concerned, Viv and I are now going to be fighting over the number two shirt."

"I thought he did well against the Czechs. But I don't intend to give up the spot permanently without a fight."

"That game was an ideal one to blood a new player, being a friendly. I was brought in for my first cap by Don Revie in similar circumstances."

No Bitterness

"I was very grateful for my chance and I don't begrudge Viv his. But when the next European Championship game comes around next month, against Northern Ireland, I hope I'll be back in the side."

Neal was, in fact, one of the first to congratulate the Forest full-back when his name was announced in the team. He doesn't want anyone to think there's any feeling of bitterness between the two of them.

"Nothing like that at all. Since Ron Greenwood took over as England manager, there's been a tremendous spirit among the lads.

We really are all one, big happy family."

"As I have said, Viv and I seem to hit it off and we had a lot of laughs off the field. But I'm dead serious about wanting my place back."

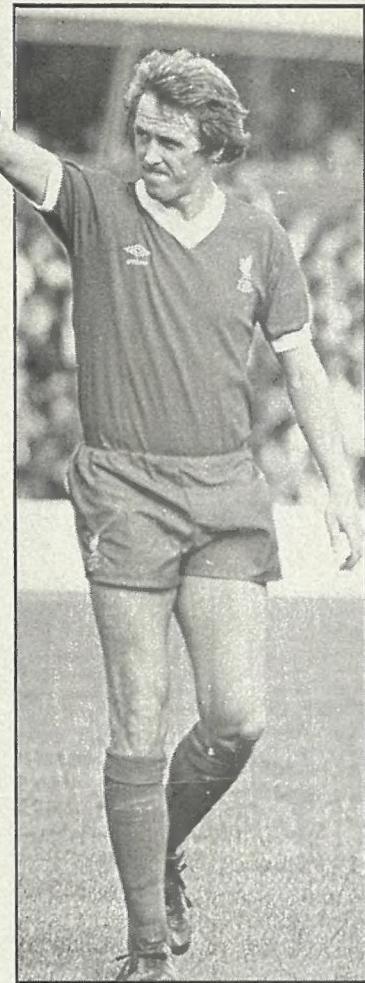
Neal is a battler, if nothing else. And he'll channel his frustration by trying to perform even better for his club in a bid to regain his international place.

The week in which he lost his England position wasn't a very auspicious one. On the Saturday before joining the party, he had missed a penalty for Liverpool, his second miss in three attempts.

That spoiled the record of a man who'd had one of the most consistent spot-kick rates of anyone in the country.

He says: "When you take penalties over a long period, it can easily happen. I was talking to David Peach at Southampton, who is going through a similar patch after being successful for a long time.

"I'm not sure whether the answer wouldn't be a six months break from taking penalties. That's what I might do. But I'm not intending to take a long break from the England team. I want to get back as quickly as I can."



'SUNDERLAND ARE DESPERATE - FOR SUCCESS' says their young star GARY ROWELL



find no one was willing to join up?

Weren't they the side that won a big match one week, then lost to a struggling team the next? It was all true of Sunderland Football Club in the first half of the current campaign.

Yet, it's not too difficult to see what Rowell means. With their vast financial resources, a go-ahead board and the town desperate for success on the football field, Sunderland is certainly a club with a big future. It won't take very much to get the Roker machine back to its loudest, famous roar.

Rowell says: "We had a lot of disruption in the first few months of this season. If you take a slightly longer spell than that, we overcame the loss of Bob Stokoe and Jimmy Adamson without much trouble.

"I don't think there is anything wrong with Sunderland. We have a good foundation now, most of the players are young and we just need more experience to put it all together. Watch out for us in the second half of the season — we could show a lot of people what I mean."

Already, Sunderland have been quietly moving up the Second Division table. And it's obvious they have a good chance of promotion this year because there are so few

clear-cut contenders this season.

Rowell goes on: "We played almost all the leading clubs before December and I didn't see any world beating sides. We had three superb away wins — at Burnley, Luton and Charlton — and all three were on the verge of the top six.

"I am optimistic we can go up this term. We must have a great chance because it is really wide open — one of the most even Second Divisions in years. We just need to string a few results together and we'll be in contention.

'Struggle'

"Although I think we could go up this season, we want to do much more than just struggle up and then come back again. We aim to go up and do well, make Sunderland a big First Division club again."

"To do that, we would probably need two or three more experienced players who could supplement the youngsters. But if we got that, I reckon we'd do well. The fans in the town are desperate for success. They are good supporters but they get frustrated and that adds to the pressure."

"If things aren't going right for us at home, we can sense the crowd's impatience. And it starts

to affect the players. We know when we go out on the park if we don't score fairly quickly, the tension builds up."

Rowell is reasonably happy with his form so far this season. But he says: "I could be more consistent. I was ever so pleased to score twice in our great 3-0 win at Luton; that was a fine result for the side. But I'd like to be doing it every week."

Has the managerial upheaval meant problems for the players at Roker Park? Rowell doesn't think so. "I give 100 per cent whoever is in charge," he says. "When Adamson left it didn't have too much effect because Dave Merrington was in temporary control and his ideas were basically similar. We play for Sunderland so you can't say one man leaving changes everything."

Sunderland need to improve one aspect of their play, according to Rowell. He adds: "We seem to lack concentration near the end of matches. We have quite often given away decisive goals in the final five minutes and that doesn't make sense."

"We are a hard team to beat nowadays but we have given away too many silly goals. Therefore, we haven't won as many games as we should have done. It needs tightening up."

SUNDERLAND are the sleeping giants of the Football League. That's the view of star Roker Park youngster Gary Rowell, one of the kids upon whose slender shoulders the future of one of England's great clubs rests.

It might sound absurd to talk of Sunderland reaching the First Division next May. After all, weren't Sunderland the side that couldn't find a manager prepared to take charge in November?

Weren't they the club that had all the money in the world to tempt men from the top — only to



Arsenal's Graham Rix (left) and Nick Holmes of Southampton challenge for the ball.